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OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

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5 September 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 5 September 2011

TREASURY

HM Revenue and Customs (Repeal of the Scott Undertaking)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Sir Richard Scott undertook an inquiry following the collapse, in 1992, of the trial of a UK company known as Matrix Churchill for the alleged supply of prohibited weapons components to Iraq. In the course of his studies Sir Richard identified an instance where a visit to a company by HM Customs and Excise (HMCE), ostensibly for a VAT audit, had been used to see if the company was involved in the supply of components for weapons. Sir Richard thought this covert action amounted to unlawful trespassing, as the primary concern of the visit was a non-VAT matter, and recommended against its use. HMCE accepted the recommendation and reported this to Parliament on 25 June 1996. This voluntary forbearance is known as the "Scott undertaking" and it has been the HMCE, now HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), policy position ever since.

The Scott undertaking, restricting certain covert activity by HMCE and now HMRC criminal investigators, was made at a time when there was no human rights compliant legislation allowing covert entry on to property. This changed with the enactment of the Police Act 1997.

The Police Act 1997 regulatory regime now in place provides a legal framework for the type of covert activity identified by Sir Richard. The process is sufficiently robust to ensure that such covert investigation activity is only used in the most serious cases when the tests of necessity and proportionality are met. The action is authorised by a designated authorising officer and the activity then approved by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners.

As a result, the undertaking given by HMCE following the Scott report has been overtaken by the Police Act 1997 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. But because HMRC continues to observe the Scott undertaking, legitimate investigation activity is not being used.

In September 2009 this issue was raised with the inspectors of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners during their annual inspection of HMRC. The chief surveillance commissioner, Sir Christopher Rose, subsequently considered the issue and concluded that HMRC's adherence to the Scott undertaking served no useful purpose and was likely to inhibit otherwise proper, human rights compliant, investigative processes. Sir Christopher wrote to the director of criminal investigation on 6 January 2010 setting out this position and expressing his support for steps to release HMRC from its undertaking to adhere to the Scott recommendation.

HMRC will be released from the Scott undertaking from the date of this statement.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Service College

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): The Government see strong value in a national college for the fire and rescue service to deliver common, consistent standards of safety-critical training and improved intra-operability across the service in support of resilience and to enable it to meet public expectations.

However, the current Fire Service College ownership and business arrangements do not provide the flexibility necessary for the college to operate with sufficient commercial success. As we said in our response to "Fire Futures", the Government wish to explore options for a new ownership, operational and governance model for the Fire Service College which, through greater involvement from other sectors—whether private, public or voluntary—secures its future, supports national resilience and provides best value for the public purse.

The Government's preferred option for a Fire Service College of the future is a partnership between the public and private sectors with the fire sector playing a key role in that partnership. While a public/private sector partnership is the preferred option, we do not wish to close off other options and would welcome ideas on whether other arrangements may be more suitable

To inform its view of market appetite and viable options, the Department for Communities and Local Government is today launching a short phase of pre-market engagement. This will allow interested parties to offer clear views on the future of the college, and the Department to assess the reaction of the market to the overarching aim of delivering a new model for the Fire Service College.

A copy of the pre-market engagement document can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/firerescueservice/collegefutureoptions.

DCLG (Summer Recess Work)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I would like to update hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose on 20 July 2011.

Supporting High Street Recovery

As I outlined in my written statement of 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 121WS, my Department has taken a leading role in cross-government action to help rebuild communities, open up shops and to help residents and councils get their areas back to normal as quickly as possible in the aftermath of the public disorder.

With the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, we are providing an additional £20 million to create a new high street support scheme. The flexible scheme is aimed at supporting the specific streets and areas where businesses suffered most. Local authorities will be able to use it to fund the proportion of hardship relief from business rates that would otherwise fall to them, and to help affected firms to get back up and running quickly.

In addition we announced a £10 million recovery fund to help councils with the immediate costs of making their areas safe, clear and clean again, including funding council tax relief. The Government will also meet councils' immediate costs for helping people who have had to leave their home as a result of the rioting.

Helping Local Shops and Local Firms

On 1 August, I announced that centrally imposed limits on town centre car parking spaces will be scrapped, providing a boost to high streets and giving councils greater freedom to support local business and town centres.

My Department recognises the vital economic and social role of pubs in the local community. On 2 August, the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), launched a review of restrictive covenants, a legal clause that can be used to prevent community pubs reopening as public houses following a sale. By changing the use of certain restrictive covenants, communities would also be given greater opportunities to use the new "community right to buy" power in the Localism Bill.

On 25 August, new figures published by my Department illustrated how businesses are benefiting from the doubling of small business rate relief. We are determined to ensure that even in a tough financial climate, local businesses are able to thrive when given the right support.

Driving Local Growth and Regeneration

The Government are determined to help ensure that Britain is the best place in the world to start and grow business and we believe this begins at the local level. It is local business and commerce that drive the private sector growth, jobs and wealth that this country needs.

On 17 August, together with the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, I announced 11 new enterprise zones. This brings the total to 22 enterprise zones across the country that will accelerate local growth, generate thousands of jobs and attract hundreds of new start-up firms. The zones will benefit from simplified planning rules, super-fast broadband and over £150 million of tax breaks for new business for the next four years. The introduction of enterprise zones is just one of over 100 reforms being taken forward as part of the Government's "Plan For Growth", announced at Budget 2011, to create the conditions for strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

On 17 August, I also announced a £20 million enterprise and growth package for Tottenham and Croydon to address the long-standing barriers to growth which were further compounded by the recent riots. The London enterprise fund is intended to provide specific, targeted support to these areas to arrest and reverse economic decline, provide immediate investment and to boost the local economies.

We have taken swift action to restore the flow of regeneration funding from the European Union after a period of interruption caused by irregularities in projects under the last Administration. The European Commission has welcomed new measures taken by the Government to standardise the monitoring system and introduce a programme of enhanced checks. On 1 August, the Commission confirmed it would lift the interruption on payments of European development funding in England allowing vital regeneration work to continue bringing wider economic development and other benefits to local communities.

Improving the Planning System

We believe that planning policy should promote sustainable growth and responsible development rather than hinder it.

On 25 July, my colleague, the Minister with responsibility for cities, decentralisation and planning, the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) announced a new, simpler national planning policy framework which streamlines over 1000 pages to 52 pages. The draft framework, which is open for consultation, is a key part of our reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth.

The document is underpinned by powerful protections for communities to safeguard the natural and historic environment. It underlines the need for local authorities to work closely with communities and businesses and to seek actively opportunities for sustainable growth to deliver the homes, jobs, and infrastructure needed for a growing population while protecting the environment

This Government want to simplify the planning system and make it less bureaucratic for everyone. On 29 July we set out our intention to local authorities to introduce a new "planning guarantee" which will speed up local planning applications meaning that no planning application should take longer than 12 months to make a decision. Local people will be able to see how their councils perform against the guarantee using information which is made available by councils as frequently as possible.

We recognise the significance of positive planning on the wider community and believe that the current system has impeded the expansion of good schools. On 15 August, together with the Secretary of State for Education, I introduced a new planning statement to support the expansion of popular state schools and the creation of free schools. The new guidance is a boost for state education and local promoters of the Government's flagship free schools programme, who can now be confident their proposals will be processed swiftly in response to demand from local people.

On 27 August, the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government, Department for Communities and Local Government, encouraged local authorities to consider how reforms across the planning system and new powers restoring local control over housing provision could be used to create more housing supply by enabling people to have more opportunities to choose innovative housing solutions—such as residential moorings.

On 27 August, my Department published a new and simple guide for communities wanting to start up, share or save their own community orchards that could help reverse the national decline in traditional orchards. The guide will form part of a series that continues with our commitment to cutting out red tape and making it easier for communities to protect the spaces they value most.

In addition to this on 30 August I outlined how new planning reforms in the Localism Bill can be used by local communities to classify green spaces such as bowling greens and safeguard them from the threat of development or closure.

On 31 August, my colleague, the Minister of State with responsibility for cities, decentralisation and planning, announced an additional 36 "front-runner" areas that will test out neighbourhood planning, bringing the total to 126 across the country. Each front-runner's local council is being given £20,000 to support work on neighbourhood planning and free advice from planning experts will be available for the local community.

Delivering a Fairer Housing System

On 3 August, the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government announced plans to speed up the process for evicting tenants from homes when all other efforts to curb their antisocial behaviour have failed. The new mandatory power for possession will speed up the possession process by allowing previous convictions for serious antisocial behaviour to trigger eviction proceedings and short-cut the often long and expensive process which often requires landlords to prove again the actions of their tenants. I announced our intention to include, as part of this consultation, a proposal to make necessary changes to housing legislation so that landlords will have even stronger powers to evict tenants who engage in serious antisocial behaviour or criminal activity such as rioting beyond the local neighbourhood.

On 25 August the Minister of State also outlined plans that give councils more financial freedoms to improve, buy and build new housing for the local community. The proposals will allow councils more flexibility to trade their assets and use the receipts to enable further investment new homes and regenerating the local area.

Increasing Freedoms for Local Government

Continuing our commitment to give councils greater financial freedom, on 25 July, we once again opened up applications for councils to apply to borrow and sell against their assets to enable them to tackle historic pay inequalities while protecting front-line services. The deadline for applications is 16 September 2011.

On 2 August, I set out our proposals to localise support for council tax, freeing up billing authorities to decide how best to support working-age households and establish stronger incentives for councils to get people back into work. These changes sit alongside the Government's wider welfare reforms that are focused on ending a culture of benefit dependency, and in order to protect the positive work incentives and distributional impacts of universal credit some changes to the universal credit design may be required. The Government will provide further detail in the next few months.

Since August 2010, we have been examining the most cost-effective way to disband the Audit Commission, transferring audit into the private sector and allowing local authorities to appoint their own auditors. Determining the best value-for-money approach, on 28 July, I announced that the commission will outsource all its in-house local public work to the private sector in the next financial year.

On 2 September, my Department published guidance to local authorities on how to protect voluntary and community groups from disproportionate cuts to their funding. The guidance, which reduces 56 pages of prescriptive statutory guidance to one page, outlines how councils can achieve best value in their areas. In deciding how best to fulfil their best value duty, councils are required to consult those using, or likely to use, a local service. This should include community and voluntary organisations.

Augmenting Transparency in Government

The Department is continuing its commitment to deliver transparent and open government to drive out waste, protect front-line services and ensure value for money to the taxpayer. We want to make it easier for local people to see how their money is being spent. On 22 July we launched a new online search engine to show residents when they could use their rights to inspect their council's detailed financial spending and ledgers.

On 21 July, my Department published a further group of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration. There remains a backlog of unpublished reports that were produced by the previous Government. The reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency and as part of our freedom of information commitment to publish the results of all commissioned research. The latest batch relate to resilience, and can be found online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/general-content/corporate/researcharchive/volume7resilience/.

We believe that the public has the right to see the scale and variety of publicly owned assets and we have urged councils and other public bodies to publish their own assets lists that will help to identify billions of pounds of potential savings. In recognising the huge worth of public assets we have also committed to working with areas seeking to make savings through better property management. On 5 August, my Department published a demonstration map outlining over 180,000 publicly owned assets which helps to illustrate the potential scope for savings.

I am placing in the Library copies of the departmental press notices and papers associated with the announcements above.

DEFENCE

Chinook Contract

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): The Secretary of State for Defence announced on 18 July that, as a result of the Government's commitment to a real-terms rise in the equipment budget of 1% after 2015, he had given the go-ahead for the procurement of 14 Chinook helicopters, 12 to expand the fleet and two to replace those lost on operations in Afghanistan in 2009.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that we have now signed a contract with Boeing for their delivery. This will expand the Chinook fleet to a total of 60, which will provide a significant capability lift to the front line. The total value of the procurement including development, manufacture, and support for the first five years is approximately £1 billion.

The first of the new Chinooks will enter into service with the Royal Air Force in May 2014, making an immediate contribution to the operation of the UK Chinook capability and allow more of the mature airframes in the fleet to be available for operations in Afghanistan in 2014 should they be required. All of the new Chinooks will be delivered by December 2015. Three helicopters will be ready for operational deployment in early 2015 and all 14 will be fully operational by early 2017. This significant uplift in helicopter capability is just another in a series of steps we are taking to modernise our armed forces and meet the adaptable posture outlined in the strategic defence and security review.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Boundary Commission for Wales

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): On 22 June, the Welsh Government published an independent report into the recent work of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW). On the same day the Welsh Government Minister for Local Government and Communities announced that the appointments of the LGBCW commissioners were to be terminated, in light of the report's conclusions.

Two of the LGBCW commissioners also serve as commissioners on the Boundary Commission for Wales (BCW), which makes recommendations to the UK Government on the determination of Westminster parliamentary constituency boundaries.

At my invitation, the commissioners concerned made representations about their positions on the BCW. They also set out their views on the termination of their appointments as LGBCW commissioners, insofar as it affected their positions as BCW commissioners.

The commissioners have both offered to resign from the BCW in order to ensure that it is best able to complete the important task that Parliament entrusts to it. I welcome the commitment of the commissioners in this regard and on that basis their resignations have been accepted.

Ministers have begun the process of making replacement appointments, following the code of practice published by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The replacements will be made swiftly and the Government will take the necessary steps to ensure that there is no risk to the deadline set by Parliament for the completion of the parliamentary constituency boundary review that is currently underway.

EDUCATION

Use of Force (Schools)

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): On 23 June this year I made a statement announcing that the Secretary of State had asked his expert adviser on behaviour, Charlie Taylor, to review the implications for schools of the requirement to record and report the use of force in schools, and that, subject to the outcome of that review, it was our intention to commence this requirement on 1 September 2011.

In the light of the results of this review, the Secretary of State has decided not to commence this requirement and will seek to repeal it at the first suitable legislative opportunity.

Copies of Charlie Taylor's report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

EU-Australia PNR Agreement

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The coalition Government are firmly committed to protecting the security of their citizens and to defending their civil liberties. Our experience is that both security and privacy are possible. We must resist trading one off against the other as some would wish us to do.

We are firmly committed to consistency in our approach to civil liberties and will seek to translate our domestic agenda to the EU level—this includes purpose limitation; rigorous evidence-based arguments; the principles of necessity and proportionality; stringent data protection safeguards, especially when handling sensitive personal data; independent data protection oversight; and, of course, full compliance with EU law and the EU treaties.

The UK, in common with many other EU member states and third countries, places considerable value on the collection and analysis of passenger name record (PNR) data (that data collected by carriers in the exercise of their business) for the purpose of preventing terrorism and serious crime. The appropriate use of PNR data is vital in keeping the public safe.

In line with this view, the Government continue to press for an EU PNR directive that includes provision for intra EU flights. The Government also believe that clear PNR agreements between the EU and third countries play a vital role in removing legal uncertainty for air carriers flying to those countries, and help ensure that PNR information can be shared quickly and securely, with all necessary data protection safeguards in place.

This agreement replaces the EU-Australia PNR agreement which has been applied provisionally from June 2008. The European Parliament postponed its vote on that agreement and asked the Commission to come forward with a single model for international agreements before it took a final vote. On 21 September 2010 the European Commission published a communication on the global approach to transfers of PNR data to third countries, together with a package of draft negotiating mandates for PNR agreements with Australia, Canada and the United States. In response to this, the Council presented a draft Council decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations for PNR agreements with Australia, Canada and the US, together with draft negotiating guidelines (collectively referred to as the negotiating mandates).

The UK opted into these negotiating mandates in December 2010 and announced this decision to Parliament on 20 December 2010.

We fully recognise the importance of working with partners outside the EU given that the threats we face are global in nature and, in common with other EU member states, we view Australia as a key partner.

I wish to bring to Parliament's attention that, after due consideration of civil liberty, data protection and security issues, the Government have decided to opt in to the Council decisions to sign and conclude the EU-Australia PNR agreement.

In particular, the agreement;

> Restricts the purposes for which data can be processed to the prevention of and combating of terrorist offences and serious transnational crime;

Makes express provision for data security;

Restricts the period for which data may be retained to five and a half years, with data being masked after three years unless it is required for an ongoing investigation;

Provides that the masking mechanism shall be reviewed one year after entry into force and suggests archiving as an alternative method of restricting access if masking does not prove to be efficient or cost-effective;

Prohibits the use of sensitive personal data and mandates the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to delete any such data it may receive from carriers;

Provides for the oversight of the Australian Information Commissioner;

Sets out rights of access, rectification and erasure and redress;

Contains specific provisions about data retention, including who may have access to the data throughout the retention periods;

Regulates the transfer of PNR data to other Australian Government authorities;

Only permits onward data transmission to a third country on a case-by-case basis and for the purposes outlined above. The data may not be transmitted further without the permission of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

The Council decisions to sign and conclude the agreement were deposited on 23 May. These can be found at the following links:

Council decision to sign:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011: 0280:FIN:EN:PDF.

Council decision to conclude:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0281:FIN:EN:PDF.

The Government will continue to work with the Scrutiny Committees when they consider whether to opt in to Council decisions to sign and conclude the US and Canada PNR agreements once these agreements are published, and will of course update Parliament on the Government's opt in decisions.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Famine (Horn of Africa)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I would like to update the House on the drought in the horn of Africa and on the UK Government's response.

The drought has prompted the most serious food insecurity situation in the world today. Across the region, 18 million people require emergency assistance. The UK continues to be at the forefront of the world's response—I can report that Britain was one of the first donors to step forward with significant funds. Following my announcement on 17 August of an additional £29 million for Somalia, our contribution across the horn stands at £124.29 million, which we estimate will provide assistance to over 3 million people. We are the second largest bilateral donor behind the US. These funds have been reallocated from elsewhere in Britain's development budget. The British public, too, is showing incredible compassion and commitment, raising more than £57 million through the Disasters Emergency Committee East Africa appeal.

Southern Somalia is the area of most concern. The first famine of the 21st century was declared there in two regions in late July and further news from the UN earlier today means that 750,000 people face imminent starvation in the next four months. In places, malnutrition rates are more than three times the emergency threshold, and tens of thousands are thought to have already died. Many of those who are still strong enough have fled—to Mogadishu, where I witnessed at first hand the depth of the crisis a few weeks ago—and to camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. When I visited Dadaab in north-eastern Kenya in July, I saw how agencies have struggled to keep up with the flow of new arrivals. The camps there represent the biggest concentration of refugees anywhere in the world.

While Somalia remains our chief concern, the situation in Ethiopia and Kenya is also deeply worrying. More people are affected by the crisis in Ethiopia than any other country in the region; according to Government figures, 4.56 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Ethiopia hosts 240,000 refugees—over 75,000 from Somalia arriving this year. In Kenya, the worst affected areas are in the northern and eastern arid and semi-arid lands; over 500,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Across the region, the crisis is made even worse by conflict and insecurity. Over the weekend, 20,000 Sudanese refugees crossed into Ethiopia fleeing violence in eastern Sudan. And in the worst affected parts of Somalia, insecurity means that many of those in most need cannot be reached. Officials in my Department are working closely with a small number of well-established and trusted agencies that can deliver effectively on the ground, ensuring aid reaches those it is intended for.

Let me be clear that across the horn the situation will worsen before it improves, with the situation forecast to be at its most dire in October. Relief efforts are now reaching more people every week, but although donor support and the volume of assistance in the pipeline have increased significantly, there remain serious gaps. Diseases such as cholera, measles and malaria represent a growing threat to the weakened population. It is vital that increased support flows into the health and water and sanitation sectors.

Although the situation remains grave, UK aid is working. Our support is already showing results:

In Somalia the UK will vaccinate at least 1.3 million children against measles and 670,000 against polio. Some 624,000 children will receive vitamin A inputs and at least 528,000 children will receive de-worming medication;

In Ethiopia in June and July, the UK helped to provide food to 2.4 million people with 1.68 million people benefitting from UK funded food aid programmes in May;

UK support has also provided over 45,000 people with food distributions or vouchers for food in Somalia. By the end of this week, an additional 35,000 will have been provided with cash to buy food;

A further 18,000 of the most severely malnourished Somali children will have been treated with specially formulated food;

A consignment of over 10,000 metric tonnes of specially formulated flour, rice, pulses, and oil for the prevention and treatment of moderately malnourished children is now en route to Somalia;

Almost 160,000 mosquito nets have been purchased to prevent weakened children and their families succumbing to malaria.

Unfortunately, other countries have been slower to contribute. That is why, throughout the summer, we have relentlessly pushed donor Governments across the world to dig deeper. This has yielded results and relief operations are now on a stronger financial footing. But acute humanitarian needs will persist into 2012 and

Britain will continue to play a leading role in keeping the world's attention focused, and pushing for sustained international support.

Ultimately, we need to stop these crises happening. We cannot avoid droughts, but we can avoid famines. We are already investing in building the resilience of communities to shocks. There is clear evidence that these investments work, as we can see from the impact of the crisis in Somalia, compared to Ethiopia, where people were better able to deal with the shock. We must build on this success.

In the long run, investing more effectively in reducing poverty and reinforcing resilience is not only better value for money than emergency relief, but will help those affected to break out of the cycle of disaster. In Somalia and the region, however, we need political progress to ensure aid can be used most effectively.

JUSTICE

Victims of Crime Directive

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government have decided to opt in to the directive on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The directive meets the criteria set out in the coalition agreement with regard to EU Justice and Home Affairs measures.

In accordance with the coalition agreement, the Government have stated that they will approach forthcoming legislation in the area of criminal justice on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and preserving the integrity of our criminal justice systems. By opting in to this directive we will have the opportunity to strongly influence the text and ensure that the minimum standards victims can expect throughout the EU are clear, appropriate and affordable.

We welcome the proposed directive, which will benefit UK citizens who are victims in other EU member states. They will be afforded minimum rights, support and protection to a level similar to that they would receive as a victim of crime in the UK. The directive will allow UK citizens to move throughout the EU with confidence that should they fall victim to crime in any member state, their rights will be respected when participating in criminal proceedings and they will be able to access a minimum level of support across the EU.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 6 September 2011

TREASURY

Capital Allowances Anti-avoidance

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): On 12 August 2011 the Government announced a change in legislation to prevent tax avoidance. The Government have set out a clear strategy on preventing tax avoidance and will not hesitate to take action to stop those who seek to obtain an unfair advantage by exploiting unintended tax loopholes. This measure demonstrates the Government's commitment to act quickly to close loopholes when this happens.

The Government became aware that an avoidance scheme was being promoted that sought to take advantage of an exception from certain capital allowances anti-avoidance rules provided by section 230 of the Capital Allowances Act 2001 (CAA). The scale of the tax potentially put at risk by the scheme was such that the Government decided to announce that section 230 CAA will be repealed by legislation introduced in Finance Bill 2012 in relation to expenditure incurred on or after the beginning of 12 August 2011, to the extent that section 230 provided an exception from section 217.

HMRC published a statement on their website (www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget-updates/hmrcstatement-12Aug.pdf) on 12 August explaining the change, together with a technical document containing draft legislation which the Government intend to include in the next Finance Bill.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Prisoner Voting Rights

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): In November 2010, the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Greens and MT v UK* found that the UK's ban on prisoners voting was in breach of article 3 of the First Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to free and fair elections). In the judgment the Court prescribed a timetable for the introduction of legislative proposals to amend the blanket ban, namely a period of six months from when the judgment became final (which was 11 April 2011). The Government have since been considering the appropriate course of action in order to respond to the *Greens and MT* judgment.

In July, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights accepted a referral in the case of *Scoppola (No.3) v Italy*. A hearing before the Grand Chamber has been scheduled for 2 November. The legal issues which arise in *Scoppola* under article 3 of the ECHR are analogous to those which arose in *Hirst v UK* and *Greens and MT*.

Given the close relationship between the cases, the Government have sought leave to intervene in the proceedings before the Grand Chamber in *Scoppola*. The Government also requested an extension to the deadline set in *Greens and MT* to enable it to take account of the Grand Chamber's judgment. The Government were notified on 31 August that the Court has granted an extension of six months from the date of the *Scoppola* judgment, and on 5 September that the Government will have the opportunity to express our views on the principles in the *Scoppola* case.

The Government welcome the decision of the Court and believe it is right to consider *Scoppola* and the wider legal context before setting out the next steps on prisoner voting.

HEALTH

Southern Cross Healthcare

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I wish to update the House further on the situation regarding Southern Cross Healthcare.

Throughout, the Government's overriding concern have been for the welfare and safety of the 31,000 residents in Southern Cross's care. We are clear that this must be the paramount concern for all parties involved in the discussions about the future of the company.

Over the summer, officials have kept in close contact with Southern Cross's senior management, landlords and lenders as the negotiations to achieve a consensual and solvent restructuring of the business have developed.

I have previously told the House that the intention is that the company will be wound up and its business transferred to other care operators. This will be done in such a way as to have minimal impact on the residents and staff of those homes. Until a new operator is registered and takes over the services in any care home. Southern Cross will continue with full responsibility for continuity of care.

In the last month, each of Southern Cross's landlords has been considering which new care operator it will work with. Those discussions have progressed well and now all bar a handful of landlords are coming to the end of finalising the commercial arrangements that will apply in future. Within the next few weeks, we expect agreements to be signed that will effect the transfer of the business and assets of each home operated by Southern Cross to the new operators. The expectation is that formal transfer of care homes will be achieved in two waves, with around 330 homes transferred at the end of September and the remaining 400 homes transferred at the end of October. At that point Southern Cross will no longer be responsible for providing care anywhere in the country and the company will be wound up. Throughout, the Government have strongly urged all parties to agree their plans as swiftly as possible so as to offer reassurance to residents, staff and families. The company has informed all Southern Cross staff, together with residents and their families, of these plans in order to provide reassurance.

Last week, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services published information for each of Southern Cross's homes about the position it has reached in its transition to a new care operator. The information also included details of any inquiry or helplines set up locally or regionally by the company and by local authorities which can be accessed if further information is needed. As the new care operators are settled, their names will be added to the information. Within the next few weeks we expect the complete picture to emerge for each care home, and it will be clear who is the landlord and who is the new operator. Members may wish to draw this information to the attention of any constituents that are concerned or have relatives in Southern Cross's homes. A link can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/transfer-of-southern-cross-healthcare-to-new-operators/

The process to register the new care operators with the sector's regulators in each part of the United Kingdom and to cancel Southern Cross's registration has begun. No transfer of homes will take place without new operators having been approved and registered. Alternative operators will need to demonstrate to the regulator that they are capable of delivering high-quality care and of meeting all regulatory standards in the homes they take over. It is important that this process moves quickly and smoothly and, in respect of operators in England, the Care Quality Commission have assured us that they have the resources to complete the necessary regulatory work in time. However, regulators will not lower the regulatory threshold or reduce the rigour of the registration process to achieve that. Standards will not be compromised.

I understand that staff consultation under the TUPE regulations has also commenced and that the staffs elected representatives and the incoming operators are to be invited to attend a series of meetings to discuss these arrangements.

Notwithstanding the good progress that has been made, it is important that I restate the Government's commitment that whatever the outcome, no one—state-supported or self-funded—will find themselves homeless or without care. We remain in close touch with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to ensure that in all parts of the country they are ready to respond to any potential disruption to the continuity of care and to ensure that all residents are protected.

I have previously told the House that the Government will be considering what measures may need to be put in place to prevent similar situations from arising again. Options for financial regulation or other measures will be considered as part of the development of the forthcoming White Paper on social care. To that end, we will shortly publish a policy paper setting out an analysis of the possible options and seeking views.

I will update the House as the situation develops.

JUSTICE

Cohabitation: Financial Consequences

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I wish to make the following statement to the House announcing the Government's response to the Law Commission's report "Cohabitation: the financial consequences of relationship breakdown".

The Law Commission published its report on 31 July 2007 but no action was taken by the previous Administration who wished to first seek research findings on the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006. This Government have now carefully considered the recommendations of this thorough report, together with the outcomes of research on the 2006 Act.

The findings of the research into the Scottish legislation do not provide us with a sufficient basis for a change in the law. Furthermore, the family justice system is in a transitional period, with major reforms already on the horizon. We do not therefore intend to take forward the Law Commission's recommendations for reform of cohabitation law in this parliamentary term.

Convention on Torture (Periodic Report)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the UK's fifth periodic report under the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I intend to send the report to the United Nations Committee Against Torture immediately, with a request that the committee post the report on its website.

The report sets out how the UK is fulfilling its undertakings under the convention, and updates the UN on developments since the examination of the UK's fourth report in November 2004. It draws attention to recent initiatives with regard to the treatment of people in detention: publication of guidance on the treatment of detainees, and establishment of the detainee inquiry. Non-governmental organisations and members of civil society in the UK have had the opportunity to comment on the report in draft, and the Government have taken into account many of their comments and suggestions.

Transparency in the Justice System

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Open justice is a long-standing and fundamental principle of our legal system. Justice must be done and must be seen to be done if it is to command public confidence.

This Government are determined to open up the justice system and have ambitious plans to increase transparency at every stage to allow everyone to see what is happening and how the system works.

Central to achieving this objective is a plan to publish far more and better data on justice:

> On 29 September 2011, my Department will publish statistics by region which show the efficiency of the courts and tribunals in progressing cases. This will include brand new statistics on the time from the date an offence is committed to the date the case is finally dealt with by the criminal courts, whether at a magistrates court or the Crown Court.
>
> On 12 January 2012, this will be extended down to court level. These data will include the number and type of cases dealt with at each court or local justice area, how long cases take to complete, as well as how many criminal trials could not commence on the scheduled date and how many had to be abandoned. The data will also allow the public to see the number of civil hearings and trials dealt with at courts in

> their area, how long it takes these cases to progress, and in family courts how long it takes for care proceedings cases to complete.
>
> On 27 October 2011 we will publish reoffending rates for every probation trust and prison in England and Wales, along with anonymised datasets showing whether individual proven offenders go on to reoffend for each local area.
>
> On 24 November 2011, we will publish, alongside our regular quarterly criminal justice system statistics, anonymised datasets on each case sentenced. This will include the sentence given, the court, the age group, gender and ethnicity of those sentenced, and the time from when the offence was committed to when the case was complete.
>
> From May 2012 onwards, the national crime mapping website, police.uk, will provide the public with information on what happens next for crimes committed in their streets, so they can see what action the police took and the outcome of any subsequent court case.

In addition to providing more data, I am determined to reform fundamentally the way the justice system operates so it is more open. The names of offenders who are unlawfully at large can be—and often are—published by police forces to help bring these people back to custody—where they should be. We are committed to removing all unnecessary barriers to the naming of these offenders and to promoting best practice and consistency across all police forces.

Today, I can also announce my intention to legislate, as soon as parliamentary time allows, to remove the ban on cameras in courts.

As a starting point, judgments in the Court of Appeal will be broadcast for the first time. I want to see this expanded to the Crown Court, but I will work closely with the Lord Chief Justice and Judiciary on how this could be achieved.

I will consult further on the detailed approach, but I am clear that this must not give offenders opportunities for theatrical public display. We will work to ensure this does not hinder the administration of justice and that it protects victims, witnesses, offenders and jurors.

Collectively, these plans will open the justice system in an unprecedented manner, allowing the public to judge for themselves how we are performing and to hold us to account.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland (Report 2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for all aspects of electoral administration in Northern Ireland, including the successful running of the parliamentary general election held on 6 May 2010. Section 14 of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962—as amended by section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006—provides that the Chief Electoral Officer must submit an annual report to the Secretary of State. The annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland for the year 2010-11 has been laid before Parliament today.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 7 September 2011

TREASURY

Double Taxation Convention (United Kingdom and Republic of Hungary)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A new double taxation convention with the Republic of Hungary was signed on 7 September 2011. The text of the convention has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be made available on the HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Permitted Development Rights

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): Fulfilling the mandatory requirements of the Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009 we have laid before Parliament Statutory Instruments that amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007. These measures will provide:

> New permitted development rights to allow for the installation of electrical outlets for recharging electric vehicles in off-street public and private car parks, and amendments to clarify that local authorities can install on-street charging points for electric vehicle as permitted development; and
>
> Deemed advertisement consent for installers of charging points and energy suppliers to display their nameplates on the charging points; and
>
> New permitted development rights for householders to install small-scale domestic wind turbines and air source heat pumps on their premises, subject to strict limitations and conditions[1]

We will shortly publish a summary of the responses to the public consultation and a more detailed statement on the Government's response to them. I will place copies of these documents in the House Library.

Subject to the views of parliamentary colleagues the provisions relating to electric vehicle charging points will come into force on 1 October 2011. Those relating to micro-wind turbines and air source heat pumps will come into force on 1 December 2011.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Parliamentary Oral Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): An error has been identified in the grouped oral answer that I gave to the hon. Members for Scunthorpe (Nic Dakin) and for Newcastle upon Tyne North (Catherine McKinnell), *Official Report,* 7 July 2011, columns 1636-1638. The answer refers to the announcement in March of at least 100,000 green deal apprentices being funded. The correct figure should have been 1,000.

The answer given was as follows:

4. **Nic Dakin** (Scunthorpe) (Lab): What discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on skills and employment in the energy sector. [64267]

13. **Catherine McKinnell** (Newcastle upon Tyne North) (Lab): What discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on developing skills in the low-carbon sector. [64277]

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): My Department works closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to promote skills and employment in the energy sector. The Budget announced £180 million of funding for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeships, and we announced in March that at least 100,000 green deal apprentices could receive Government funding towards their training. There are many opportunities, with the new build nuclear programme alone expected to create 30,000 high-skilled new jobs nationally.

The correct answer should have been:

My Department works closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to promote skills and employment in the energy sector. The Budget announced £180 million of funding for 50,000 additional adult apprenticeships, and we announced in March that at least 1,000 green deal apprentices could receive Government funding towards their training. There are many opportunities, with the new build nuclear programme alone expected to create 30,000 high-skilled new jobs nationally.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity Strategy for England 2011-2020

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I am pleased to announce that the Government published the new biodiversity strategy for England 2011-2020—"Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services"—on 19 August, setting out a new strategic direction for biodiversity policy in England for the next decade.

The strategy describes how we will put into effect the convention on biological diversity agreements made in Nagoya as well as the European Union's 2020 biodiversity target. It directly supports the aims of the Government's natural environment White Paper setting out a more integrated approach to biodiversity conservation. The strategy builds on the evidence provided by the groundbreaking national ecosystem assessment and the independent review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network led by Professor Sir John Lawton, and takes account of the European Union's biodiversity strategy.

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[1] Including a maximum noise limit of 42dB LAeq, 5minutes for both technologies. The noise limit will be reviewed one year after these measures come into force.

The strategy aims to halt overall biodiversity loss by moving away from the piecemeal conservation of the past towards a more effective and integrated large-scale approach delivering multiple benefits. It puts people at the heart of biodiversity policy, addresses environmental pressures and takes account of the need to improve our knowledge.

It sets clear outcomes describing what we aim to achieve over the next 10 years for habitats, species, ecosystems and for people, as well as a series of priority actions to take us to 2020.

It is a Government strategy. However, it cannot be delivered by Government alone. It is clear that our policies on biodiversity present an excellent example of the big society in action. Alongside Government and their agencies, there are a huge number of individuals and organisations already making a vital contribution to the conservation and enhancement of our biodiversity. This "biodiversity partnership" will be absolutely crucial to its success and the strategy will continue to support this partnership approach, and to build on it.

Copies of the strategy will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the ninth progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

This report focuses on key developments during the months of July and August, commonly associated with a seasonal escalation of violence, and the month of Ramadan, a period during which the Taliban leadership has called for increased activity. There have been a number of high-profile attacks, including the 19 August attack on the British Council, which seriously undermine perceptions of security, although overall there have been fewer enemy attacks across the country than last year. Progress has been made towards our security objectives but challenges remain, including civilian casualties as highlighted by the latest UN Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA) report. General Allen took command of ISAF in July and will conduct a campaign review in due course.

The first seven areas (including Lashkar Gah in Helmand) formally began the transition process in July. Transition does not mean an immediate withdrawal of international security assistance force (ISAF) troops but will see the Afghan national security force (ANSF) begin to take lead responsibility for security in the areas. ANSF numbers have now exceeded their October 2011 targets and a new target of 352,000 by the end of October 2012 has been endorsed by the Security Standing Committee of the Joint (Afghan and NATO) Co-ordination and Monitoring Board. There was a welcome reduction in overall Afghan national police (ANP) attrition which brings the rate back on target but Afghan national army (ANA) attrition rates still need to be reduced.

We welcome President Karzai's decree of 10 August which ruled that the final decisions of the parliamentary crisis should rest with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). On 21 August the IEC announced its findings and called for the replacement of nine sitting MPs. It will fall to the secretariat of the Lower House of Parliament to implement the changes.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

British Embassy (Côte d'Ivoire)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): With the onset of civil war, the British embassy in Côte d'Ivoire formally closed on 1 April 2005. As stability returned to the country, the UK opened a political office in 2006, reporting to and supervised by our high commission in Ghana. Following the United Nations-certified presidential elections earlier this year and the inauguration of President Ouattara, I am pleased to announce the reopening of the embassy in Côte d'Ivoire.

As I said in Parliament on 11 May 2011, there will be no strategic shrinkage of Britain's diplomatic influence overseas. I am committed to extending the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's global reach and strengthening its influence. Reopening the embassy in Côte d'Ivoire, with a fully accredited, resident ambassador taking up residence in spring 2012 is part of that commitment.

Under President Ouattara's Government, peace and stability are slowly returning to Côte d'Ivoire. However, President Ouattara and his Government face huge challenges if the country is to recover from the deep divisions created by the disputed elections and the subsequent civil war. Through the Government's new building stability overseas strategy, the UK will continue to support security sector reform, national reconciliation, reconstruction and human rights in Côte d'Ivoire. It is important that justice is seen to be served on all those on both sides of the political divide who have been found responsible for crimes and human rights abuses in the recent conflict.

Since the closure of the embassy in 2005, our influence in Côte d'Ivoire has been limited. Reopening sends a clear signal that we are committed to helping peace, stability and prosperity return to Côte d'Ivoire. A fully accredited ambassador will be able to work more closely, and more credibly, with President Ouattara and his Government to help Côte d'Ivoire demonstrate their commitment to justice, reconciliation and human rights and to become a beacon of democracy in west Africa.

Reopening the embassy will also support our commercial ties. Côte d'Ivoire is the largest producer of cocoa in the world, the fourth largest exporter in sub-Saharan Africa, and has one of the best infrastructures for business in the region, there will be real opportunities for UK companies particularly in the agricultural, energy and financial sectors. Increased prosperity and growth in Côte d'Ivoire is in all our interests.

The reopening of the embassy will incur a marginal cost of £16,000. A limited consular service will be offered in Côte d'Ivoire. Our high commission in Ghana will continue to provide a visa service as well as full consular assistance.

Sudan and South Sudan

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): I would like to provide the House with an update, following the summer recess, on developments in Sudan and South Sudan.

We continue to support and encourage Sudan and South Sudan to develop as two independent states in peaceful co-existence with one another. Both countries face significant challenges. There remain many outstanding issues following the end of the comprehensive peace agreement, the responsibility for which must ultimately lie with the Governments of the two countries.

CONFLICT

Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile

The conflict in Southern Kordofan continues. We remain deeply concerned at this situation, and continue to call for an immediate end to the violence that is having a devastating effect on over 150,000 civilians. It is disappointing that, despite the announcement on 23 August by Sudanese President al-Bashir of a unilateral two week ceasefire, we have received reports of continuing violence and human rights abuses by both sides in southern Kordofan. As I made clear in the statement of 24 August, we urge the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (Northern Sector) to allow immediate humanitarian access to the many civilians affected by the ongoing violence.

It is very concerning that violence has broken out in Blue Nile State, which shares many of the challenges faced by Southern Kordofan. Thousands of civilians have already been displaced. As I made clear in the statement of 2 September, we condemn any action that endangers civilian lives, in particular aerial bombardments. We will continue to work closely with our international partners to push for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the establishment of an agreed process to address the root causes of the violence in both Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Abyei

In Abyei, we continue to have concerns about the humanitarian situation, with over 100,000 people still displaced by the violence earlier this year. Following UN Security Council Resolution 1990, which authorised the deployment of up to 4,200 Ethiopian peacekeepers to Abyei as part of United Nations Interim Stability Force for Abyei (UNISFA), deployment of UNISFA troops is ongoing. UNISFA was primarily mandated to monitor and verify the withdrawal of SAF and SPLA troops from the Abyei area. We are very concerned that this has not yet occurred and call for both sides to immediately start withdrawing from the Abyei area. UNISFA should also provide de-mining assistance, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, facilitate the return of civilians in the Abyei area and protect those under imminent threat of physical violence. We expect the Security Council to mandate UNISFA to provide force protection for border monitors, whose deployment was agreed to on 30 July by Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa.

Darfur

We welcomed the Government of Sudan and Liberation and Justice Movement's endorsement of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur on 14 July. We now urge both parties to implement the agreements made. We are grateful to the Government of Qatar for their continued efforts to find a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict, and look forward to working closely with Qatar through the Implementation Follow-Up Committee which meets for the first time on 11 September. Looking forward, we encourage continued engagement between the Government and the armed movements to prevent Sudan from breaking further into conflict. We stand ready to support the UN and AU as they prepare a road map setting out the next phase of the Darfur peace process.

COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT

We are disappointed that there has still been no conclusive agreement between the two countries on many of the outstanding unresolved issues from the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) which ended on the 9 July. These issues include oil, citizenship and border demarcation. There has been no progress on agreeing the citizenship rights of southerners in (north) Sudan, and vice versa, beyond the agreement of a nine-month transitional period which will come to an end in March 2012. The five disputed areas of the border remain unresolved. We strongly encourage both parties to negotiate in earnest with the intention of reaching a lasting settlement.

We support the facilitation offered by the African Union high-level implementation panel (AU HIP), led by Thabo Mbeki, to come to an agreement on these matters. The UK has contributed £250,000 to AU HIP this year, enabling this crucial work. We continue to press both parties and the AU HIP to urgently engage in resolving these issues.

Sudan

President Bashir publically stated on 12 July that a constitutional review process, required following the completion of the comprehensive peace agreement, will be a broad-based and inclusive dialogue. We will continue to press for this to be the case.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, we welcome President Kiir's announcement on 27 August of his first Cabinet, eight weeks after independence. This is an important step for the new country. We welcome his commitment to improving service delivery across Government and his intent to show concrete progress on this within 100 days. We now look forward to engaging with the new Ministers, and working with them in support of our shared goals. We will continue to highlight the importance of tackling corruption at every level.

UN MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), mandated to support peace in South Sudan, continues to deploy. The mission, led by former Norwegian Development Minister, Hilde Johnson, will seek to foster state building and economic development, prevent and resolve conflict and protect civilians. Recently we have seen continued localised violence in South Sudan, which gives cause for real concern. There are ongoing sporadic bouts of fighting in Warrap state which are estimated to have killed around 100 people, while one recent incident of inter-tribal violence in Jonglei resulted in several hundred dead. I welcome the South Sudanese Government's decision to send troops to the area to prevent further revenge attacks and an escalation of violence. We urge the Government of South Sudan to work swiftly to establish a reconciliation process and identify long-term solutions to the causes of such violence—as they have committed to doing.

Going forward, we encourage the Government of South Sudan, supported where necessary by the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), to be more proactive in addressing inter-tribal conflicts, and their underlying causes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In Sudan and South Sudan, the growth and diversification of the economy will be a vital factor in establishing the long-term stability and development that will prevent conflict and the abuses of human rights that accompany conflict. The primary responsibility for this lies with the Governments of the two states. The UK will play its part, however, in supporting such development, for example in South Sudan we will create more employment opportunities in agriculture and work to help reduce the costs of trans-border trade; and in Port Sudan, where the opportunities for economic development are considerable.

UK COMMITMENT/CONCLUSION

The UK will remain committed to supporting the development of two economically viable and peaceful states, underpinned by good governance, respect for human rights and an environment in which humanitarian assistance can reach all that need it. We continue to speak out against unacceptable actions in both countries when we feel it necessary. We will continue to work closely with the Governments in both Sudan and South Sudan and with our international partners in pursuit of those goals.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Welfare Reform Bill (Employment and Support Allowance)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): As part of his spending review announcement, the Chancellor set out his proposal to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance who are in the work-related activity group. The change will, subject to the passage of the enabling legislation, apply from April 2012. For those in the work-related activity group who have already received a year or more contributory employment and support allowance as at April 2012, entitlement will cease immediately.

In order to avoid delay in implementing this policy the Department for Work and Pensions has obtained approval for an advance from the Contingencies Fund of £2,705,000 to allow for the development of IT, ensure those potentially impacted by the time limit in April 2012 are notified of the change and to deliver the operational support that will be required before Royal Assent of the enabling legislation. Parliamentary approval for resources of £2,705,000 for this new service will be sought in a supplementary estimate for the Department of Work and Pensions. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £2,705,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 8 September 2011

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Commission on the "West Lothian" Question

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): The coalition programme for government set out our commitment to

"establish a commission to consider the 'West Lothian question'".

I can now give the House more details on how that commission is to proceed.

The Government are clear that the commission's primary task should be to examine how this House and Parliament as a whole can deal most effectively with business that affects England wholly or primarily, when at the same time similar matters in some or all of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are lawfully and democratically the responsibility of the separate Parliament or Assemblies. The commission will not examine financing, which is being dealt with separately through various processes led by Treasury Ministers, nor does it need to look at the balance of parliamentary representation, given that Parliament addressed historic imbalances in representation between the constituent nations of the United Kingdom in legislation earlier this year.

Given the commission's focus on parliamentary business and procedure, the Government believe that the commission should be comprised of a small group of independent, non-partisan experts with constitutional, legal and parliamentary expertise. We will also wish to consult with Mr Speaker and other parliamentary authorities on how the commission can best address this. We will also ensure that there is a full opportunity for the parties to have their say following the completion of the commission's work.

We will bring forward formal proposals, including the terms of reference for the commission, after the conclusion of this short process of consultation and further deliberation. I expect that this will be in the weeks after the House returns in October.

JUSTICE

UK Bill of Rights

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government established an independent commission to investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights in March 2011, fulfilling a commitment made in our programme for government. The commission has been asked to explore a range of issues surrounding human rights law in the UK and also to provide interim advice on reform of the European Court of Human Rights ahead of our chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which begins in November 2011 and runs for six months.

I am today placing in the Library of the House copies of two letters received from Sir Leigh Lewis, the chair of the commission on a Bill of Rights, which have been sent jointly to the Deputy Prime Minister and myself. The first letter contains the interim advice which the commission was asked to provide to the Government on reform of the European Court of Human Rights, in advance of the UK's chairmanship of the Council of Europe. The second letter sets out a number of issues on which the commission has not yet reached conclusions, and which it intends to continue to consider as part of its work programme.

The Government welcome the commission's interim advice on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights. Our top priority when we take over the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe will be to deliver and build upon the ongoing reform process. It must focus on the most important cases and have proper regard to the judgment of national Parliaments and courts. It must operate more effectively and efficiently as a proper safeguard against human rights abuses. Our plans will be informed by the commission's advice. The commission will continue to explore the case for a UK Bill of Rights, and we look forward to receiving its final report by the end of next year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 9 September 2011

TREASURY

Anti-Avoidance (Tax Treaties)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): On 1 August HMRC published for consultation a technical note and draft legislation outlining a proposed approach to combating tax avoidance arrangements which exploit the provisions of double taxation agreements (DTAs). The responses so far received have made it clear that the proposed legislation, as drafted, could cause significant uncertainty for compliant UK businesses and overseas investors about its intended scope and its practical effect.

The Government are committed to providing certainty to taxpayers and acknowledge the concerns raised in the responses to the consultation. They have therefore decided not to proceed further with the consultation on the proposed legislation and will not include it in the Finance Bill 2012.

The Government will continue to challenge specific arrangements that clearly seek to abuse provisions in a DTA.

This decision reaffirms the Government's commitment to open and transparent consultation and demonstrates the value of consultation. The Government's approach set out in their tax consultation framework has been widely welcomed by business and others as providing a much improved basis for developing new legislation. If the Government conclude in the future that alternative approaches for legislating against treaty abuse are necessary, they will consult on these alternatives in line with the tax consultation framework.

Banking Act 2009 (Reporting)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Treasury has laid before the House of Commons a report required under section 231 of the Banking Act 2009 covering the period from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office.

DEFENCE

Ofsted Report (Armed Forces Initial Training 2010-11)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Today Ofsted publishes its third report on welfare and duty of care in armed forces initial training, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. Following visits to 11 armed forces initial training establishments, Ofsted reports that recruits and trainees feel that their welfare needs are met and well supported.

The armed forces remain committed to ensuring that the training they provide is both efficient and effective, recognising the need to continuously evaluate what works well and areas that need improvement. Ofsted inspection suggests that review processes in training establishments are improving and in one location the overall effect is judged to be "outstanding".

We need to continue to provide effective training in the face of resource and operational pressures, while providing a supportive training environment that enables instructors to bring out the best in young recruits and trainees without lessening the tough nature of armed forces training.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council (12 September)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The General Affairs Council will meet in Brussels on 12 September. I will attend.

I will deposit the provisional records of the Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council in the Library of the House when they are issued by the Council secretariat. I will issue a written ministerial statement in slower time, with the Government's assessment of the debate at the Council.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

Next Multiannual Financial Framework

The presidency intends to present the outcome of the discussion held by the Friends of Presidency group. This is a Committee of officials from the member states, with attendance from the Commission, to prepare and discuss aspects of the next multiannual financial framework. The Commission proposals (linked here—http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/ were published in June 2011 and are unacceptable to the UK. The UK Government have been clear that, at a time of ongoing economic fragility in Europe and tight constraints on domestic public spending, the Commission's proposal for the multiannual financial framework is unrealistic. It is too large; it is not the restrained budget the Commission claims and it is incompatible with the tough decisions being taken in countries across Europe. The negotiations are at a very early stage and discussion is expected to be general.

Following the GAC, Ministers will have an orientation debate during lunch. This will be an opportunity to discuss general issues such as how the budget operates/functions, in particular the structure of the budget—this means how the budget headings are set out, for example what level of flexibility there should be to move funds between envelopes. The discussion will also touch on the macro-economic assumptions upon which the Commission's figures are based, that is; assumptions about growth, GDP and the rate of inflation. There will also be discussion of emergency funds, such as the emergency aid reserve, and how these funds operate.

I will place particular emphasis, during my interventions, on the principle that the budget should be transparent.

Economic Governance

The presidency will update the Council regarding the "six pack" of legislative proposals for economic governance proposed by the Commission to implement the recommendations of President Van Rompuy's economic taskforce (his report is linked here—

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/117236.pdf.

The six recommendations from the Commission called for a strengthening of both the preventive and corrective arm of the existing stability and growth pact, including new regulations to formalise sanctions for eurozone countries; provided for new regulation to improve macro-economic surveillance across the EU27; and included a new directive which sets out minimum standards for member states' domestic fiscal frameworks.

The Government have supported the proposed economic governance legislation in broad terms. The March Finance Ministers Council (ECOFIN) agreed a general approach to the six proposals linked here—

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms data/docs/pressdatayen/ecofin/119888.pdf

including a UK exemption from relevant articles of the fiscal frameworks directive. Negotiations are currently underway with the European Parliament (EP).

European Council of 17-18 October 2011

Delegations will be presented with a draft agenda, submitted by the President of the European Council, to set out the main items that the European Council is expected to address on 17-18 October 2011. The agenda for the October European Council will include economic policy, and external aspects of the EU economic policy including trade; preparations for the G20 summit on 3-4 November; and the EU position ahead of the climate change discussions in Durban (28 November-9 December). Additional agenda items may be added in the lead up to the Council.

Accession Treaty with Croatia

The presidency is likely to use the opportunity to take stock of the work done so far in drafting the accession treaty with Croatia. Discussion is likely to be limited, although the date and venue for the formal signature of the accession treaty may be raised.

JUSTICE

Personal Injury Cases (Referral Fees)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am today announcing the Government's intention to ban referral fees in personal injury cases. This complements our wider plans for civil litigation funding and costs, including fundamental reforms to "no win, no fee" conditional fee agreements.

Referral fees are usually paid by solicitors to third parties, usually claims management companies or insurers, who "refer" business to them. But current arrangements have led to the growth of an industry that actively encourages individuals to bring cases, regardless of the merits of their claim.

The Government strongly believe that it is not in the public interest for potential claimants to be sought out and encouraged to make claims by people who profit from their claims being pursued. We believe that referral fees add to the high costs and volume of personal injury litigation, one of the factors underpinning increases in insurance premiums. As my right hon. Friend Lord Young recognised in his report, "Common Sense, Common Safety" last year, referral fees also contribute to the risk of a corrosive compensation culture.

Lord Justice Jackson, in his review of civil litigation funding and costs which was published last year, recommended that referral fees should be banned or capped in personal injury cases.

Our aim is to reform the system to end the abuses that have occurred while ensuring that victims who have suffered a personal injury through someone else's negligence remain able to make a claim for damages where they have an appropriate case. Alongside the planned reforms to conditional fee agreements, the ban on referral fees will contribute to the Government's plans to tackle the compensation culture by discouraging unmeritorious claims and controlling the disproportionate costs of personal injury claims, without denying access to justice.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 September 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

New Waterways Charity

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): On 14 October 2010, the Government announced their intention to move British Waterways in England and Wales from being a public corporation to a new waterways charity—subject to parliamentary approval.

On 30 March 2011, I launched a high-level consultation on this proposal. The consultation closed on 30 June 2011.

Today, I am announcing the publication of the Government's response to this consultation, alongside a further consultation on the legislation to transfer functions from British Waterways to the new charity, both of which are available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/.

The Government response confirms our commitment to the creation of a new waterways charity in England and Wales, subject to parliamentary approval. It details the main points raised by stakeholders during the consultation exercise, and the Government's proposals in the light of those comments. The response has been developed by working closely with the transition trustees of the new charity. Key points addressed in the response include:

> Local partnerships will be named "Waterways Partnerships" to reflect their strategic role and size; each partnership will develop a "localism strategy".
>
> Fair representation of different groups on the council will be prioritised. "Private boaters", "boating businesses" and "NWC employees" will directly elect their representatives from the outset. We will progress to 50% of the council being directly elected overtime.
>
> In addition to the Waterways Partnerships that cover the waterways in England, and those that cover the waterways straddling England and Wales, there will be a separate All-Wales Partnership, with representation from associated bodies with a Welsh remit.
>
> We are publishing a revised and enhanced draft of the charitable purposes.
>
> More detail is available on how Government will work with the charity to secure and safeguard public benefits, including free pedestrian access to the towpaths, through the charitable purposes. Trust obligations, legislation and Government funding agreement.

The Government believe that the move to civil society will secure the long-term financial sustainability of the waterways. We have already announced plans to transfer all of British Waterways' property assets to the charity, as an endowment, and to commit to a long-term funding agreement. The length and terms of the agreement will be subject to negotiation and final agreement between Government and the transition trustees, this autumn.

The further consultation on legislation deals with the content of the proposed transfer order under the Public Bodies Bill, which will, subject to parliamentary approval, transfer the functions of British Waterways in England and Wales to the new charity. The document provides further information about the legislation which currently relates to British Waterways, the principles underpinning the functions to be transferred, and proposed amendments to legislation. It invites comments on the proposals specified. Because a full, 12-week consultation has already taken place on the principles of the transfer and this is a more limited consultation, it will take place over six weeks only and will close on 24 October 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Foreign Ministers Meeting (Sopot, Poland)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I attended an informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers (Gymnich), which was held on 2-3 September in Poland.

The informal format of the Gymnich allows EU Ministers to engage in a free and in-depth discussion on a number of issues. Ministers do not agree any formal written conclusions, in contrast to arrangements in the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) or General Affairs Council (GAC). The next GAC will be held on 12 September. The next FAC is on 10 October.

The following issues were covered at the Gymnich:

Relations with Strategic Partners

Ministers had a broad discussion covering the EU's relationships with emerging powers. The discussion focused largely, though not exclusively, on relations with India, Brazil and south Africa. This continued a process set in train at last September's European Council. This is an area where we welcome the external action service's efforts to define clearer collective EU priorities, common objectives, and methods for using member states' collective weight to advance our security and prosperity objectives.

Ministers agreed on the importance of the EU's economic and trade relations with these strategic partners. They also discussed how to enhance our engagement on political and security issues, complementing our national diplomatic efforts. And there was general agreement on the need to use the EU's collective voice better to influence some of our strategic partners on areas such as human rights.

Middle East Peace Process

The discussion on the middle east peace process focused on EU handling of a possible Palestinian bid for recognition at the United Nations General Assembly. Ministers were joined for part of the session by the Norwegian Foreign Minister in his capacity as chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee.

There was continued broad support for the principles agreed at the FAC on 18 July: the need for a two-state solution; for both sides to resume direct and substantive talks; and support to the High Representative in her efforts through the Quartet to create a credible perspective for the re-launching of the peace process.

Libya

The Gymnich discussion came a day after the Paris conference co-chaired by the Prime Minister and President Sarkozy. Baroness Ashton set out proposed priorities for the EU's post-conflict assistance. There was general agreement that any potential EU financial and post-conflict stabilisation assistance should respect the need for national transition council ownership and a UN-lead.

Syria

The discussion on Syria took place in the presence of EU candidate countries (Iceland, Montenegro, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Croatia and Turkey) and focused on EU measures against the regime. On 2 September, the EU agreed a collective ban on imports of Syrian crude oil products. By doing so the EU made it clear that it will continue to increase the pressure on President Assad until he steps aside and allows a transition to a different type of regime. The horrific scenes of brutality throughout Ramadan were unacceptable, and the ban on all EU imports of Syrian crude oil products will help constrict the regime's funding and reduce its ability to fund the repression of innocent civilians.

Following the Gymnich, I issued a further statement on the issue of oil sanctions. This can be found at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=650796182

Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood

There was a short exchange on the EU's relations with its eastern European neighbours. On Ukraine, concern was expressed about the trial and subsequent detention of Yuliya Tymoshenko and other opposition leaders. On Belarus, Ministers stressed the need to maintain the EU's firm position on releasing and rehabilitating all political prisoners. I underlined the importance of progress on implementing the revised European neighbourhood policy. Baroness Ashton and Stefan Fule (Commissioner for Enlargement) reiterated their commitment to deliver results. Finally, Ministers were briefed on preparations for the eastern partnership summit in Warsaw on 29-30 September.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe and I will continue to update Parliament on Foreign and General Affairs Councils as and when future meetings are held.

TRANSPORT

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (Business Plan)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I am pleased to announce the publication today of the business plan 2011-15 for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

The business plan sets out the services the agency will deliver over the course of this Parliament and the resources they will have available. Alongside the four-year business plan, the agency is also publishing a set of performance indicators for 2011-12 which describes a framework of measures by which the MCA's performance will be assessed.

Both the business plan and the performance indicators for 2011-12 will be available electronically on the MCA's website, and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

DWP Administration

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): Following the spending review and development of this coalition Government's programme for welfare reform, the Department for Work and Pensions has reviewed from first principles its organisational structure and governance to ensure it is best placed for the future.

Subject to the Welfare Reform Bill achieving Royal Assent, universal credit (UC) will, for example, require DWP to deal not only with those out of work—where the existing Jobcentre Plus network and brand is strong and effective—but also to deal with those in employment, which will account for approximately half of the UC caseload in steady state. Starting from 2013, this approach requires a different organisational structure.

Furthermore, a consistent message that work will always pay can also be reinforced by managing claims for disability living allowance (and, in due course, subject to safe passage of legislation, the personal independence payment) for people of working age alongside those for universal credit. This reform will also mean that support for housing costs are incorporated with pension credit, once universal credit is established and local authorities no longer administer housing benefit.

These structural reforms illustrate the extent to which traditional boundaries, within and beyond the DWP, will change. The breadth of the reforms also puts a premium on the flexibility which comes from removing some of those boundaries, as we build a welfare system fit for the future.

At the same time, the Department will deliver a 40% reduction in the cost of the corporate centre, including the centres of Jobcentre Plus and the pension, disability and carer's service.

Reflecting all of this, the Department will:

bring all of its day-to-day operations under the leadership of a chief operating officer, within a smaller executive team led by the permanent secretary;

make more transparent, and manage as a single entity, the portfolio of reform to which the Government are committed;

and to facilitate this, remove the formal agency status of Jobcentre Plus and the pension, disability and carers service from Monday 3 October.

By creating a single integrated, senior management structure, the Department has been able to reduce the number of senior civil service roles by almost a third since May 2010.

With the departmental board, now chaired by the Secretary of State and with four non-executives all appointed since May 2011 the removal of formal agency status also enables the removal of separate management boards for each agency. The finances of each agency are already consolidated with the Department's accounts, but the changes will also avoid two sets of subsidiary accounts, each separately prepared and audited.

I would like to put on record my appreciation for the ongoing efforts of DWP's front line staff. They continue to deliver important services in local communities and will continue to do so with the introduction of universal credit under this new DWP organisational structure.

Current arrangements for parliamentary questions, correspondence and enquiries from Members will continue unaltered as we deepen our commitment to transparency and professional communications in DWP.

Taken together, this new structure will ensure DWP is well placed to deliver reform for a welfare system fit for the 21st century.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 September 2011

TREASURY

Tax Policy Consultation and Draft Finance Bill 2012

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government's approach to tax policy making puts consultation on policy and scrutiny of legislation as the cornerstones.

Over the summer, HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have been seeking the views of interested parties on the tax policies announced at Budget 2011. Responses to these consultations will be published on or by 6 December 2011.

As part of the next stage of consultation draft legislation for these measures, to be included in Finance Bill 2012, will also be published on that date. This will be supplemented by draft explanatory notes and tax impact and information notes. The draft clauses will be open to consultation until 10 February 2012.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Delivery Authority (Ministerial Guarantee)

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has entered into an agreement for Qatari Diar Athletes Village UK Ltd (QDD) to purchase 1,439 homes and associated ground floor retail units in the Olympic village development, together with six adjacent future development plots having the potential for a further 2,000 new homes in the public realm, which benefits both the Olympic village and the development plots. As Minister for the Olympics and an authorised signatory for the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, I have signed a guarantee given in support of this agreement.

QDD is a wholly owned subsidiary of QDD Ltd, a joint venture between DV4 Ltd, a real estate investment fund advised by Delancey (a specialist real estate investment company with a property portfolio across the UK) and Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company (a real estate investor and developer owned wholly by the Qatar Investment Authority).

The agreement is between QDD and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) for the sale of SVDP Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the ODA which holds the ODA's interest in the village (and associated development plots and public realm) on its behalf.

The ODA has provided various undertakings, indemnities and warranties under the terms of the agreement with QDD. In essence, these oblige the ODA to build and convert the village units from athletes' use at games time to private housing and deliver wider Olympic park infrastructure. The ODA has no significant sources of funding other than the public sector funding package and is expected to have a limited life span that many of the obligations are expected to exceed. In such circumstances, and given that the obligations go beyond the lifetime of the 2012 games, I have agreed to a ministerial guarantee of the ODA's obligations. Such a guarantee is provided for under the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006.

All of the ODA's obligations to QDD are within the ODA's existing scope and budget therefore no additional funding is required to meet these obligations. However if, due to unforeseen circumstances, additional funding is required there is access to ODA programme contingency, and if that was exhausted, to the public sector funding package contingency for the Olympic programme as a whole.

The obligations do not constitute additional contingent liabilities because the obligations covered by the guarantee can be funded within the overall public sector funding package for which a contingent liability was announced to Parliament in March 2007.

The coverage of this guarantee is very similar to that provided in 2009 in support of the agreements entered into by the ODA with Triathlon Homes LLP for the purchase of 1,379 affordable homes on the Olympic village development. Parliament was informed of the Triathlon guarantee by the then Minister for the Olympics the right hon. Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS).

At the point at which the ODA is wound up, any subsisting rights and obligations under the agreements with QDD will be managed and considered as part of the Government's decision at the time on the allocation of the ODA's remaining assets, rights and liabilities.

DEFENCE

Service Voter Registration

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of the report of a survey on service voter registration levels in 2010 conducted by Defence Analytical Services and Advice in January 2011. As in previous years the survey was conducted to provide an estimate of the numbers of armed forces personnel who are currently registered to vote, and to assess the success of our information campaign.

I welcome the survey. It indicates that 75% of service personnel are registered to vote, up from 69% in 2009 and 60% in 2005. This represents the highest level of service registration since I first raised the issue back in 2005. Of those registered in 2010, the majority (77%) chose to register as ordinary rather than service voters. The level of voters registered as overseas voters has remained at 1%.

We recognise that there is still work to be done. Alongside the challenges presented by service mobility and the high proportion of young personnel in our armed forces, the results of the survey will help to inform how and where we should best concentrate our efforts in the future. We continue to work closely with our colleagues in the Cabinet Office and the Electoral Commission to further improve the quality and timeliness of information available to our service personnel and their families. It remains our firm commitment to improve arrangements for the service community to enable them to play a full part in the electoral process.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Oil Release (Gannet Field)

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): An oil release from a pipeline in Shell's Gannet F development, totalling approximately 218 tonnes[1] occurred during the period from 10 to 19 August 2011. The oil dispersed naturally well away from the shore and the UK-Norway median line and there has been no evidence of any significant environmental impact to date resulting from this release.

An oil sheen on the sea surface was observed by Shell personnel on Wednesday 10 August, and my Department was notified on the same day that a leak had occurred. A DECC inspector was in regular communication with Shell from that point. On the evening of August 11, DECC was notified that the release had stopped. However, Shell provided DECC with further aerial surveillance information late on the afternoon of Friday 12 and it became clear that the release was continuing and that there was potential for significant pollution. The Secretary of States representative for maritime salvage and intervention (SoSREP) was immediately notified and he mobilised to Shell's headquarters on Saturday 13 August. A team from DECC and Marine Scotland was assembled at Shell's offices to attend an operations meeting that afternoon, with the SoSREP formally establishing an operations control unit at Shell's office at 9 am on Sunday 14 August.

The role of the SoSREP is to represent the Secretaries of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (in relation to offshore installations) and the Department for Transport (in relation to ships) to ensure the risk to safety, property and the UK environment arising from accidents involving ships, fixed or floating platforms or sub-sea infrastructure is eliminated or effectively reduced.

In the case of an offshore oil release, the SoSREP monitors the operator's response to a pollution incident and, if he deems necessary, has powers to give directions and to take such other actions as may be required where there is or may be a risk of significant pollution. The SoSREP is empowered to make crucial and often time-critical decisions, without delay and without recourse to higher authority, where such decision are in the overriding public interest. The SoSREP has been in close contact with DECC and the Scottish Government Ministers throughout.

On 14 August, a survey by a remotely operated vehicle confirmed that the initial leak had been stopped, but a second, smaller, leak was continuing. The survey also discovered that the pipeline bundle, within which the oil flow-line was contained, had lifted from the seabed in a number of places. Action to halt the continuing small leak had to be deferred until the pipeline could be stabilised. With the approval of the SoSREP, Shell partially stabilised the pipeline by laying concrete mattresses on it, and the second leak was then halted on 19 August.

The operations control unit remains in place and the SoSREP is continuing to work with Shell as they develop plans to remove the remaining inventory in the pipeline (estimated at 660 tonnes of oil).

Although this incident is in no way comparable with major pollution incidents such as the gulf of Mexico—in the case of Macondo it is estimated that 4,900,000 barrels of oil were released to sea, the Gannet release equates to 1,300 barrels—this is nevertheless the largest oil release on the UKCS in over a decade.

My Department and the Health and Safety Executive have commenced investigations into the cause of the incident, which are likely to take some months. A full report will be sent to the procurator fiscal to consider whether a prosecution is appropriate.

[1] It is difficult and takes time to get an accurate assessment of the size of a release and this is subject to ongoing revision.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Imports of Animal Products

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): As required under the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002) the Government will publish today a review of controls on the import of animal products for the financial year 2010-11.

Following my first year as Minister of State responsible for agriculture and food, I welcome the opportunity again to report on the actions made by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and other Government Departments and agencies during the past year aimed at reducing the risk of disease entering the country via imports of animal products.

The Government remain committed to strong action to prevent illegal imports of animal products from outside the European Union (EU) that may bring the risk of diseases that can threaten animal and public health, for example foot and mouth disease (FMD) and highly pathogenic avian influenza type H5N1 respectively. There is also the substantial risk to the economy as we know from the outbreak of FMD in 2001 which is estimated to have cost £3 billion relating to agriculture and the food chain.

Following the spending review, DEFRA with the UK Border Agency (UKBA), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), albeit at low or no cost, have continued to undertake a joined-up approach on the overall communications strategy and seek opportunities to help raise travellers' awareness of the rules on personal imports of animal products.

It is also pleasing to report the existing intelligence framework between UKBA and the FSA has been strengthened to improve the flow of risk information available for border and inland enforcement activities to target illegal animal products.

We can never have a zero risk but we continue to monitor and assess the changing threats from around the world. We therefore continue to work closely with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to ensure that its anti-smuggling controls at the Great Britain (GB) border are responsive to new or changing animal health risks and to ensure it focuses on the most high-risk routings and goods.

Copies of the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, on the DEFRA personal food imports website (http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/personal-import/index.htm), and we will be writing to interested groups and stakeholders providing them with the opportunity to comment on or query anything in the review and/or meet officials.

English National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority (Governance)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): The nine national parks in England, along with the broads, represent some of our finest landscapes which have been a source of inspiration, challenge, and reassurance to our citizens over many generations. Each now has an independent authority, constructed along local authority lines, to maximise the benefits which we all derive from these special areas. In the coalition's programme for government we said that

> "We will review the governance arrangements of national parks in order to increase local accountability"

That commitment was honoured by a public consultation which ran from 9 November 2010 until 1 February 2011. In the consultation document we made it clear that the Government did not intend to remove or replace the authorities but was rather looking for ways in which their governance arrangements could be improved. We also made it clear that there could be variety between authorities—this would allow governance to better reflect their individual circumstances and histories and be consistent with the coalition Government's commitment to decentralisation and localism.

I am today responding to the NPAs' proposals by placing on DEFRA's website and in the Library of the House a list of the proposals made by the NPAs and my response to them.

Central to this consultation was the question of accountability and the ultimate accountability is of course through the ballot box. Ever since the original legislation was being enacted in 1995, there have been calls for some members to be directly elected and that already happens in the Scottish NPAs. I have concluded that the time has now come for us to explore that option more thoroughly in England. I therefore propose to bring forward legislation which will allow for the possibility of elections in the national park authorities and the broads authority. Initially we propose to apply the new legislation in two NPAs on a pilot basis, namely the New Forest and the Peak district NPAs which provide different contexts on which to assess the impact of directly elected members.

DEFRA will be talking to the New Forest and Peak district NPAs in more detail about their pilots, covering in particular the number of members to be directly elected and the way they can be accommodated without increasing the overall size of those authorities.

Other changes include: altering the composition of the Dartmoor, Lake District and Exmoor authorities; some changes to the procedure for selecting "national" members (within the requirements of the OCPA code); removing the Secretary of State's role in confirming parish appointments; in some NPAs (but not all) making non-councillors eligible for parish seats; applying a maximum limit to the period which all members may serve; requiring annual reports on how well the members of each authority have collectively performed and endorsing a number of changes which NPAs can make under their existing powers—for example, strengthening links between members and particular areas of the park or improving meeting arrangements. I also propose further work in some areas.

A number of the actions I have outlined will require formal consultation and others require further development in co-operation with relevant bodies such as the NPAs and the Local Government Association. An implementation plan is being prepared which will present this information in tabular form and will be available on DEFRA's website (www.defra.gov.uk).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (Annual Report 2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I have today laid before this House a copy of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's annual report and accounts 2010-11, in accordance with schedule 7 paragraphs 5(2) and 7(3)(b) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

This is the 12th annual report published by the Commission.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 September 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Regional Development Agencies (Transfer of Property Assets)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I announced on 6 July that land and property assets acquired by regional development agencies (RDAs) and in need of further development would be transferring to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) under a stewardship arrangement. I can now confirm that the transfer order has been signed and that the transfer will take place on 19 September 2011.

The HCA will use its expertise in land and property management to ensure that the assets are fully developed in a way that will help deliver economic growth and regeneration to local areas. Under the stewardship arrangement the HCA will establish local committees to allow local partners such as local authorities, businesses, LEPs and others to influence development of the portfolio. National policy interests will be managed through BIS and DCLG representation on a newly constituted Land and Property Board, and with BIS local membership of the local stewardship committees.

Over the summer recess, we completed detailed work on the transfer with DCLG, HCA and the RDAs and we published the list of land and property assets to be transferred on 26 August at www.bis.gov.uk/rda-assets.

The portfolio includes income-generating assets which will provide investment funds for those assets which need further development. This recycling of receipts should enable the arrangement to be largely self-financing.

Under a similar but separate stewardship arrangement, BIS will contract with HCA to manage its interests in three nationally important technology parks: Ansty Park, Coventry; the Advanced Manufacturing Park, Rotherham; and SPark, Bristol. HCA will manage these in order to continue the development of these land assets which will maximise their impact on economic growth. These sites have been identified as assets of national importance to be retained under the ownership of central Government in order to be developed further to support investments in innovation and technology. Four facilities based on these sites form part of the recently established High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre funded by the Technology Strategy Board.

This transfer is in line with the principles for disposal of assets published on 10 February 2011, which can be viewed at www.bis.gov.uk/rda-assets. I will arrange a further briefing meeting to provide an opportunity for Members of the House to discuss these transfers.

DEFENCE

Naming Astute Boat 5

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): I am pleased to announce that the Astute class submarine hull 5 is to be named HMS Anson. The boat is expected to join HMS Astute, HMS Ambush, HMS Artful and HMS Audacious at the end of 2020.

The seven Astute class boats planned for the Royal Navy are the most advanced attack submarines ordered by the Ministry of Defence, with improved firepower and communications, and the ability to operate stealthily for extended periods. The crew also benefit from greatly improved accommodation and facilities.

The boats will undertake a wide range of tasks in support of military operations worldwide.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Administration Provisions

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): I am announcing today the publication of draft legislation on an electoral administration provision for pre-legislative scrutiny, and also that the Government will be introducing two electoral administration measures that can be achieved through secondary legislation.

These provisions are intended to form part of a larger package of measures which will also include draft legislation on individual electoral registration, and the electoral administration provisions on: extending the electoral timetable for UK parliamentary elections from 17 to 25 days, the use of emblems by jointly nominated candidates, and the timing of polling places reviews, which have been published separately for pre-legislative scrutiny.

The further proposals address particular issues that have been raised by MPs and peers, and by electoral stakeholders, and will help to deliver more effective electoral administration, and to increase participation and trust in the electoral process.

The draft legislation removes the automatic postponement of parish and community council elections in England and Wales that currently occurs when they fall on the same day as ordinary local government elections and either a parliamentary or European parliamentary general election. This will allow more polls to be combined and facilitate participation in parish and community council elections.

I am also announcing proposals that can be achieved through secondary legislation under existing powers that will:

> mandate 100% checking of the identifiers for postal votes at elections. While current legislation requires a minimum of 20% of postal vote identifiers (signatures and date of birth on the statement returned with each postal vote) to be checked, over recent years there has been a general commitment shown at both local and national polls to check 100% and, with safeguards for instances where there is a good reason that this cannot be done, I consider it is now appropriate to formalise this position;
>
> extend the "emergency" proxy voting facility to enable those called away on business or military service unexpectedly, and at short notice, before an election, to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. At present, only those who fall ill once the routine deadline for proxy applications has passed are able to appoint an "emergency" proxy up to 5 pm on polling day.

I am today sending the draft legislation to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee for pre-legislative scrutiny.

A Command Paper (Cm 8177) setting out the draft legislation and associated explanatory notes has been laid before the House.

General Election 2010 (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): The Government are today publishing their responses to a set of reports published on the administration of the 2010 UK parliamentary general election. The response to the Electoral Commission's statutory reports on the election incorporates recommendations from other stakeholders where appropriate, including the Association of Electoral Administrators, SCOPE and the Greater London Assembly's elections review working group. Recommendations made by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) have been addressed in a separate document.

The Government have already brought forward legislation and draft legislation as part of their programme of constitutional reform which should assist the effective administration of future elections and make parliamentary elections more transparent and fair in their operation. We were grateful for the analysis and recommendations within the reports and the responses show the progress made so far against many of the issues raised.

Copies of the Government responses will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Court of Justice of the European Union (Appointments)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): At a conference of representatives of Governments of member states on 8 September 2011 the appointments of a Swedish judge to the Court of Justice and a Bulgarian judge to the General Court were considered.

The nominations were in respect of: Mr Carl Gustav Fernlund of Sweden and Ms Mariyana Kancheva of Bulgaria.

Having consulted with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and the Attorney-General, the Foreign Secretary agreed to the appointments.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Human Rights Work)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I have today laid the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's response to the Eighth Report from the Foreign Affairs Committee of session 2010-12; "The FCO's Human Rights Work 2010-11" (Cm. 8169).

Overseas Territories Strategy

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In my statement to the House of 10 March I set out this Government's overall vision for our overseas territories and explained that we were working with Departments across Government on a new strategy to deliver this. The National Security Council (NSC) agreed the main principles of a new strategy in July.

The UK Government's fundamental responsibility and objective are to ensure the security and good governance of the territories and their peoples. The strategy recognises that our 14 overseas territories are remarkably diverse. Policies to meet these objectives need to be tailored to the specific circumstances of each territory. The strategy is designed to provide a framework in which these policies can be developed and implemented consistently and effectively.

Much of the Government's work on the territories is rightly concerned with meeting our responsibilities to the territories with settled populations. Our new strategy aims to ensure that proper attention is also given to the UK's extensive sovereign territory where there is no settled population. We want to ensure that the significance and value of this territory is better understood.

We have reviewed the constitutional status of our overseas territories. Each territory has its own unique constitution. The previous Government launched in 1999 a process of modernising the constitutions of the inhabited territories. We are continuing this work with a view to equipping each territory with a modem constitution. We expect these constitutions to continue to evolve and to require adjustment in the light of circumstances. But we believe that the fundamental structure of our constitutional relationships is the right one: powers are devolved to the elected Governments of the settled territories to the maximum extent possible consistent with the UK retaining powers necessary to discharge our sovereign responsibilities.

We believe that at this point in the history of our relationships with the territories, when a decade of constitutional revision is coming to a close, the time is not right to embark on further constitutional change. Rather our strategy is to ensure the constitutional arrangements work effectively to promote the best interests of the territories and of the UK. We are therefore focusing on three practical policy goals:

(i) to strengthen the engagement and interaction between the UK and the territories.

(ii) to work with territories to strengthen good governance arrangements, public financial management and economic planning where this is necessary; and

(iii) to improve the quality and range of support available to the territories.

The implementation of these policies will take different forms in each territory. We are now engaging in discussion with the territories and our many stakeholders to identify the priorities for action in each relationship.

To support this process the NSC also agreed that each UK Government Department should recognise its responsibility to engage with the territories in its area of competence and expertise. Departments will set out in papers by the end of January 2012 how they can support the territories. The FCO will retain leadership and oversight of the Government's policies towards and relationships with the territories and continue to provide advice, where needed, to other Government Departments on engagement with the territories. If ministerial co-ordination is required we will chair a ministerial committee to resolve any issues. This is a clear demonstration that the Government as a whole are committed to the territories.

The Government will publish a White Paper on the overseas territories next year, Her Majesty's diamond jubilee year. The White Paper will set out in detail this Government's approach to the overseas territories. We will continue to report progress regularly to Parliament.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Voluntary Gender Equality Reporting

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): "Building a Fairer Britain" (December 2010) announced the Government's intention to work with business and others to develop a voluntary approach to greater transparency on gender equality in the private and voluntary sectors.

The "Think, Act, Report" initiative being launched with business leaders today sets out a step-by-step approach to improving transparency. It encourages employers to undertake their own analysis of gender equality in their organisation, take action where appropriate to address issues identified, and in time report publicly. To support participating employers, the Government have produced a framework containing the measures which would be most useful for employers to monitor and report on, and ACAS is publishing new guidance.

The Government will review annually the number of companies releasing information, and its quality, to assess whether this approach is successful. A copy of the baseline report on voluntary gender equality reporting will be placed in the Library of the House. This sets out the aims of the "Think, Act, Report" initiative, looks at the existing evidence on how many employers currently engage in monitoring and reporting on gender equality, and explains how we will measure progress.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 15 September 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

National Minimum Wage

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I am pleased to announce that the Government have written to the Low Pay Commission setting out what we would like the Commission to consider on the national minimum wage. The document contains evidence on economic and non-economic issues, including the minimum wage rates, the youth labour market, apprenticeships, work experience, and compliance and enforcement.

In addition, we have today published guidance on Business Link and Direct.gov to clarify when individuals performing work experience, including interns, are entitled to the minimum wage.

A copy of the evidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available from the BIS website at: www.bis.gov.uk.

TREASURY

Anti-avoidance

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): I am today announcing that legislation will be introduced in the next Finance Bill to clarify the corporation tax treatment of manufactured overseas dividends (MODs) received by companies. The amendment will ensure that MODs cannot be used to obtain repayment or set-off of income tax that the UK Exchequer does not receive.

The clarification follows disclosure of a new avoidance scheme in which the recipient of a MOD claims to have received it under deduction of UK income tax, which it then seeks to set off against its corporation tax liability, or to have repaid, although no actual UK income tax has been paid.

This measure protects significant amounts of revenue. Any yield from this measure will be reflected in the OBR's next forecast.

The Government are determined to reduce tax avoidance in order to protect the Exchequer, which provides funding for public services, and maintain fairness for the taxpayer. Accordingly, draft legislation will be published by HMRC later today, putting it beyond doubt that no set-off or repayment of income tax can be made in such cases. The legislation will have immediate effect from today.

Because of repeated avoidance in this area, the Government also intend to issue a consultation document after Budget 2012 on proposals to make wider changes to the tax rules on MODs. This review will form part of the rolling review of high risk areas of the tax code, announced in the Budget 2011 document "Tackling Tax Avoidance". Its aim will be to reduce the need for this area of the tax code to be revisited in response to new schemes and to simplify the relevant legislation.

The Government recognise that changes to these arrangements could affect financial markets and they are committed to full consultation on any changes, which would have an appropriate lead-in period. Any changes made following the consultation would not come into effect before 1 April 2013.

European Regulation of Financial Services

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The UK Government strongly support international efforts to reform derivatives markets, including increased clearing of derivatives through central counterparties. G20 leaders, Finance Ministers and central bank governors have agreed that reforms to derivatives markets should be implemented in an "internationally consistent and non-discriminatory" way.

On 5 July 2011, the European Central Bank (ECB) published a Eurosystem Oversight Framework[1]. This includes a policy that central counterparties that clear euro-denominated credit derivatives above certain thresholds (€5 billion average daily net credit exposure or 5% of certain product categories) must

> "be legally incorporated in the euro area with full managerial and operational control and responsibility over all core functions, exercised from within the euro area."

The UK considers that this policy is contrary to fundamental single market principles and fundamental principles of EU law. It is also discriminatory on the grounds of nationality and runs counter to the EU general principle of equality.

The policy, if implemented, would affect a number of central counterparties that have located their businesses in the UK to provide services in a range of currencies, EU and non-EU; and would lead to a fragmentation of financial markets by currency zone with profoundly negative consequences for the single market, international capital flows and significant costs for the European and global economies.

Accordingly, the UK Government have chosen to challenge the ECB's Eurosystem Oversight Framework policy, which it considers to have legal effect and therefore can be challenged under the treaty.

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[1] The Policy Framework was not published in the Official Journal of the European Union. It was made publicly available through publication on the ECB's website on 5 July 2011.

DEFENCE

Commander Joint Forces Command

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The creation of a Joint Forces Command (JFC) was recommended by Lord Levene in his defence reform report as part of the radical reform of the Department that I announced on 27 June 2011 [*Official Report*, columns 634-636]. I welcomed that recommendation and directed that it should be put into effect as soon as possible.

The new organisation will bring together and deliver joint enabling capabilities to ensure their appropriate prioritisation and deliver synergies between them.

I am announcing today the appointment of Air Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, currently the chief of joint operations and a previous chief of defence intelligence, as the first commander JFC. His exceptionally strong joint credentials make him the ideal selection for the post, which he will take up in December 2011 on promotion to Air Chief Marshal.

Air Marshal Sir Stuart Peach's appointment is an important milestone in preparing JFC for initial operating capability in April 2012. It will achieve its full operating capability a year later.

Nuclear Liabilities Management Strategy

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has today published the first issue of the MOD nuclear liabilities management strategy. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library of the House.

The MOD's nuclear liabilities have arisen from building and operating nuclear submarines, and from the manufacture and management of nuclear weapons. They include nuclear materials that are no longer required for defence purposes; the irradiated fuel that has fulfilled its purpose; the sites, facilities, and submarines that support the defence nuclear programme; and, the resultant radioactive wastes.

Although the MOD's liabilities are substantial they are significantly smaller than the civil nuclear liabilities: the MOD's radioactive wastes account for less than 1.5% by volume of the UK total. We have, therefore, worked with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and the Scottish Government to develop a strategy that will deliver the best value for money solutions for the UK.

Managing our nuclear liabilities is a long-term challenge, and the strategy will evolve over time, as specific solutions are developed for dealing with particular liabilities. As a consequence, it is our intention to publish a revised strategy every five years, to reflect the progress being made and to ensure it remains up to date. The strategy being published today sets out the high-level approaches for managing our nuclear liabilities: it provides a common management, decommissioning and disposal framework to ensure a coherent approach across the defence nuclear programme.

The safe and secure management of the MOD's current and future nuclear liabilities is of paramount importance, and underpins all aspects of the strategy. Its publication reflects the MOD's commitment to being a responsible nuclear operator and to delivering safe and effective solutions for dealing with those liabilities.

Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): In accordance with the Cabinet Office's recent guidance on public bodies, which took effect from 1 April 2011, I have launched a review of the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation (CAC). This review will examine the Committee's functions, as well as its corporate governance procedures. The review is due to be completed later this year and I shall inform the House of its outcome.

UK-Norway Initiative Workshop

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): The UK has long been committed to the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons. As part of the coalition agreement the Government agreed that we would maintain Britain's nuclear deterrent and press for continued progress on multilateral disarmament. The Prime Minister announced a number of disarmament measures as a part of the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) on 19 October 2010. On 29 June 2011 [*Official Report*, columns 50-51WS] the Secretary of State for Defence announced the early commencement of the programme for implementing the SDSR warhead reductions: at least one of the Vanguard class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) now carries a maximum of 40 nuclear warheads.

As part of our efforts to make progress on multilateral disarmament, we undertook to build trust and confidence between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states, and committed to take tangible steps towards a safer and more stable world where countries with nuclear weapons feel able to relinquish them. Over a decade ago the Ministry of Defence, together with the atomic weapons establishment, established a disarmament and arms control verification research programme. This work is ongoing and since 2007 we have also been working with Norway to develop some of the techniques that may be required to ensure compliance with any future nuclear disarmament process. This is the first time a nuclear weapon state and a non-nuclear weapon state have worked together in this way. Our work with Norway has demonstrated that nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states alike are able to make an active contribution to disarmament through verification research, while still complying with their non-proliferation obligations. Furthermore, the co-operation of non-nuclear weapon states in nuclear disarmament verification research is necessary in order to achieve effective and mutually trusted verification solutions.

As announced at the P5 conference (30 June-1 July 2011), the UK will host a confidential expert-level meeting of the P5 in early 2012 to discuss lessons learned from the UK's work with Norway on the verification of nuclear warhead dismantlement. I wish to inform the House that we now intend to share these important lessons with additional non-nuclear weapon states. To this end, the Ministry of Defence, in partnership with Norway, will host a workshop in London in early December 2011. This will enable us to share our progress with technical experts from non-nuclear weapon states that have expressed an interest in the research conducted so far.

This verification research advances progress towards our long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons, and further demonstrates the Government's commitment to fulfilling the UK's disarmament obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The Government remain committed to maintaining the minimum credible deterrent necessary to achieve our deterrence objectives of guaranteeing national security.

Management of Unsolicited Mail at Christmas

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): I wish to inform the House about the annual unsolicited mail campaign the Ministry of Defence (MOD) will be running in the lead-up to Christmas, which is 100 days from tomorrow.

This Government are dedicated to the care and welfare of the men and women of our armed forces, particularly those deployed on operations. This is reflected in the comprehensive Deployed Welfare Package which is constantly reviewed to ensure we give appropriate support to our deployed service personnel. A key part of that package is ensuring the safe and timely delivery of free personal mail from family and friends. In the past this mechanism has also been used by the general public to show their support by sending unsolicited goodwill parcels through the mail system.

Previously, this has resulted in huge volumes of unsolicited goodwill parcels which have overwhelmed the in-theatre postal and logistic capacity, resulting in a considerable delay to personal mail from family and friends. British Forces' Post Office (BFPO) estimates it will handle approximately 22,500 parcels per week over Christmas this year (the eight-week period between mid-October and mid-December) as opposed to 10,000 over a "normal" eight-week period. In 2009, unsolicited mail added 64 tonnes to BFPO's logistical effort. In addition to the impact on personal mail, which can be severely delayed as a result, delivering unsolicited packages over the "final mile" to forward operating bases and patrol bases puts increased pressure on essential in-theatre resources. Additional helicopter journeys and road convoys are required, both of which take essential transport assets away from their primary task and place our personnel at increased personal danger.

It is for these reasons that the MOD will, for the fourth consecutive year, be repeating its unsolicited mail campaign. The campaign was so successful last year it reduced the volume of unsolicited mail by 90%. Key to the success of the campaign is to encourage the British public to show their support through one of the recognised MOD service charities rather then sending unsolicited goodwill parcels.

All service personnel on operations over Christmas will receive a seasonal gift box from the MOD-endorsed charity, "uk4u Thanks!". The charity continues to work closely with the MOD, using free space in the existing supply chain to deliver the boxes well before Christmas, without impacting on the normal mail system. Other charities which help to support deployed troops with welfare items include SSAFA, Afghan Heroes, Support our Soldiers and Thank the Forces.

I recognise that it might seem counter-intuitive to ask the British public not to send parcels to troops at Christmas, but due to the impact of unsolicited mail I ask for your full support in directing the public towards MOD-recognised charities.

EDUCATION

Standards and Testing Agency

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am today announcing that the Standards and Testing Agency (STA), a new Executive agency of the Department for Education, will commence operating on Monday 3 October. The STA will be responsible for the development and delivery of all statutory assessments from early years to the end of key stage 3.

This work was previously carried out by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, which—subject to the will of Parliament—will cease its final remaining functions in March 2012.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

World Conference Against Racism (10th Anniversary)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The Government will not attend the high-level meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2001 World Conference against Racism on 22 September at the United Nations in New York.

The Government remain fully committed to the international fight against racism. The recent examination of the UK by the UN Committee for Elimination of Racial Discrimination demonstrated that we remain committed to tackling racism at home and abroad. The committee welcomed the notable efforts the UK has taken to tackle racial discrimination and inequality and the important progress we have made.

However the Government do not want to be associated with the commemoration of an event which was tainted by anti-Semitism and intolerance. We join a number of other countries in not participating in the September meeting, including the United States, Canada, Israel, Australia and Germany.

General Affairs Council (12 September 2011)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The General Affairs Council was held on 12 September in Brussels. I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

The GAC was chaired by the Polish EU presidency (Mr Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, State Secretary for European Affairs of Poland). A draft record of the meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/124579.pdf

Multiannual Financial Framework

Before the General Affairs Council I met with a group of member states that, like the UK, believe in a budget-disciplined approach to the multiannual financial framework, hosted by Sweden. Together we agreed a joint statement calling for budgetary restraint; this was reflected in a press statement released following the Council meeting, this can be found at the following internet address:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=654555082.

Ministers were informed of the progress of discussions at the Friends of Presidency Group. This is a Committee of officials from the member states, with attendance from the Commission, to prepare and discuss aspects of the next multiannual financial framework. The Commission proposals, which can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/, were published in June 2011 and are unacceptable to the UK. Discussion was guided by the document linked below, which set the framework for the discussion.

http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st13/st13127.en11.pdf

During the formal, public, session of the General Affairs Council and the informal lunch following the Council meeting I took the opportunity, along with partners, to reiterate the UK demand for a smaller EU budget in the next financial framework. I also argued for greater transparency. This means bringing the budget items that the Commission has sought to move "off budget" back on to the balance sheet (an estimated €18 billion worth of measures). On flexibility (moving monies between budget envelopes after they had been agreed) I argued that this would only make sense in the context of a smaller, more tightly focused, overall budget.

October European Council

The presidency presented the draft annotated agenda of the October European Council on behalf of the President of the EU. The conclusions would cover economic policy and preparation of the EU's position for the G20 summit and for the Durban conference on climate change. The main focus would be on economic policy and in particular external aspects of the Union's economic policy and internal initiatives on growth and the single market.

All Ministers welcomed the draft annotated agenda and recognised that it may need to evolve in the lead up to the European Council in the middle of October. I welcomed the emphasis on economic policy but stressed the need for substantive discussion on promoting growth and jobs. I also pressed for the European Council to discuss the events in north Africa and the middle east and to discuss the evolving European neighbourhood policy. Heads of State must discuss the pressing international issues of the day.

I will deposit copies of this note in the Libraries of both Houses, and I will continue to update Parliament on the General Affairs Councils as and when future meetings are held.

Ministerial Correction

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): Further to parliamentary question 68626 [7 September 2011, *Official Report*, vol.532, c. 449W], regarding the costs of the Council of Europe, part of my written answer to the hon. Member for Daventry (Chris Heaton-Harris) was not published. The correct answer is as follows:

Mr Lidington: The following table shows the totals of the Council of Europe (CoE) Ordinary Budget between 2003 and 2010, the contribution made by the UK, and the proportion of the total paid by the UK.

Year	*CoE Total Budget (€)*	*UK Contribution (€)*	*Proportion Paid by UK*
2003	175,490,000	21,922,210	12.49%
2004	180,500,000	22,376,585	12.40%
2005	186,012,700	22,908,766	12.32%
2006	190,148,800	23,257,480	12.23%
2007	197,214,100	23,963,091	12.15%
2008	200,999,600	24,159,951	12.02%
2009	205,002,000	24,433,778	11.92%
2010	211,027,100	24,874,186	11.79%

The office of the UK delegation to the CoE is responsible for, among other things, representing the UK at regular meetings of the Committee of Ministers. Its running costs by financial year are shown in the table. Figures before 2004 are not available.

Cost of UK Delegation to the Council for Europe

Financial Year	*(£) Sterling*
2004-05	985,668
2005-06	773,530
2006-07	863,551
2007-08	578,337
2008-09	843,271
2009-10	727,190
2010-11	565,229

National delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) are politically independent and do not represent national Governments. PACE activities and running costs are funded from the Council of Europe's Ordinary Budget, and Parliament pays for the expenses of the UK delegation to PACE. The following table shows the UK's contribution to the PACE allocation from the Ordinary Budget.

UK Contribution to PACE's Allocation from the Ordinary Budget

	Euros
2003	1,663,966
2004	1,729,629
2005	1,787,644
2006	1,825,013
2007	1,825,891
2008	1,785,771
2009	1,760,947
2010	1,753,434

HEALTH

Care and Support (Stakeholder Engagement)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today, the Government launched "Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support" an engagement with people who use care and support services, carers, local councils, care providers, and the voluntary sector about the priorities for improving care and support. The engagement will last until early December, and we are requesting written comments by 2 December to help inform discussions.

In recent months, two independent commissions have reported to Government on two different aspects of care and support. In May, the Law Commission published recommendations for modernising and simplifying the social care legal framework (available at www.justice.gov.uk/lawcommission/docs/lc326_adult_social_care.pdf), and in July the Commission on Funding of Care and Support published recommendations for reforming the way that people pay for care and support (available at: https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/carecommission/files/2011/07/Fairer-Care-Funding-Report.pdf). These recommendations will form the basis for our discussions.

We have also received a report from the "Palliative Care Funding Review", which sets out how we could create a fair and transparent funding system which ensures integrated, responsive, high-quality health and care services for those at the end of life. This report has been placed in the Library.

All these reports contain important and valuable proposals to help us decide our approach to changing the care and support system. However, the Government have a broad agenda for reform of care and support. These reports were never intended to look at all our priorities. For the White Paper on social care reform and the progress report on funding reform, which we will publish next spring, we have an opportunity to get reform right so we want to have a wider discussion about every aspect of the system to inform Government decisions.

We have already said, in our "Vision for Adult Social Care", that we want to see a care and support system where care is personalised, people have choice in how their needs and ambitions are met, and carers are supported. We want high-quality care to be delivered by a diverse range of providers and a skilled work force that can provide care and support with compassion and imagination. People must be confident that they are protected against poor standards and abuse.

Making changes to the care and support system is not simple. The challenges of an ageing society are being faced by most developed countries. There are no easy answers, and we can not make all the changes at once. We know that, as a country, we will need to spend more on care and support as our society ages. In this challenging economic environment, we need to weigh up what the priorities for reform are and produce a realistic road map for change.

So, over the next three months, we will be engaging with a range of people and organisations involved with care and support about their priorities for reform.

"Caring for our future" will consist of six themes:

Quality: what are the priorities for improving quality and developing the future work force?

Personalisation: what are the priorities for promoting increased personalisation and choice?

Shaping local care services: what are the priorities for creating a more diverse and responsive care market?

Prevention: what are the priorities for supporting greater prevention and early intervention?

Integration (in partnership with the NHS Future Forum): how can we take advantage of the health and social care modernisation programme to ensure services are better integrated around people's needs?

The role of financial services: what role could the financial services sector play in supporting care users, carers and their families?

Making changes to the funding system for care and support, as discussed in the Commission on Funding of Care and Support's report, would impact on all aspects of the care and support system. So we also want to consider the implications of the Commission's recommendations as part of these discussions.

We have asked a key leader from the care and support community to help the Government to lead the discussions for each of these six areas. We want to work collaboratively, drawing upon the networks of expertise and experience that have developed over many years. So, together, we will be attending events, holding meetings, listening to the views of user organisations, carers' representatives, care providers, and local councils on what the priorities for improving care and support should be.

The leaders for each of the discussion strands are:

Quality: Imelda Redmond (Chief Executive, Carers UK);

Personalisation: Jeremy Hughes (Chief Executive, Alzheimer's Society);

Shaping local care services: Peter Hay (President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services);

Prevention: Alex Fox (Chief Executive, NAAPS);

Integration (in partnership with the NHS Future Forum): Geoff Alltimes (Chief Executive, Hammersmith and Fulham Council) and Dr Robert Varnam (Practising GP, Manchester); and

The role of financial services: Nick Kirwan (Assistant Director of Health and Protection, Association of British Insurers).

As part of "Caring for our future", we also want to hear people's views on the recommendations made by the Commission on Funding of Care and Support and how we should assess these proposals, including in relation to other potential priorities for improvement. The Commission's recommendations present a range of options, including on the level of a cap and the contribution that people make to living costs in residential care, which could help us to manage the system and its costs. We want to hear people's views on these different options, and the trade-offs involved. Later in the autumn, as part of the engagement process, we will ask the six discussion leaders to bring together the views they have gathered on support for the Commission's proposals, and the wider priorities for change.

As we said in our response to the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, we face difficult economic times. Given this, the Government will have to weigh up different funding priorities and calls on their constrained resources carefully before deciding how to act.

A copy of the public discussion document has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. This contains more details on how people can feed their views into the discussion.

The Government have said that they will engage with the official Opposition, as part of this process.

"Caring for our future" will run until early December. At the end of the engagement, the discussion leaders will bring together views about the priorities for change and will discuss these with the Government. We have committed to publishing a White Paper in spring 2012, alongside a progress report on funding reform, and to legislating at the earliest opportunity. The White Paper and progress report will include a response to the Law Commission and Commission on Funding of Care and Support and will set out our approach to reform, to start the process of transforming our care and support system.

Report on Complaints and Litigation (Government Response)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): We have today laid before Parliament "Government Response to the House of Commons Health Committee Sixth Report of the Session 2010-12: Complaints and Litigation" (Cm 8120).

The starting point for this Committee's inquiry has been that sometimes patient experience of the NHS falls below the high standards expected, and when this happens patients should have access to a responsive and effective complaints and if necessary litigation systems.

The majority of people using health and social care services in England are satisfied with the care and treatment received. However, there are times where things go wrong. In these circumstances, it is important that people are able to make a complaint and to have it investigated and dealt with effectively.

Complaints are important and need to be taken seriously. When something has gone wrong it needs to be put right quickly, and organisations need to work closely with people to find the most appropriate resolution to a complaint. Organisations also need to make sure they learn from every aspect of a complaint so that the same thing does not happen again. The more successful organisations take the views of their customers, including views expressed in complaints, seriously.

A small proportion of complaints made about care relate to negligent harm. In these circumstances, it is correct that complainants are able to obtain proportionate compensation in a timely manner for the harm they have suffered.

The Government's civil justice reforms will develop a system that is proportionate, encourages personal responsibility in resolving disputes, and with streamlined procedures to provide timely access to justice. This will improve outcomes for patients seeking compensation, and allow limited NHS resources to be diverted away from legal expenses and back to patient care.

The Government welcome the Committee's acceptance that the current complaints arrangements provide the potential for delivering better outcomes for complainants and improvements in service delivery. However, the Government accept that there is more to do, and we will work with the NHS better to ensure lessons learned from the local investigations of complaints feed into service improvements. Good practice does exist in the NHS, and it needs to be shared more widely.

The NHS reforms the Government have proposed, offer an opportunity to drive improvement, and to improve patients' experiences of the NHS, and they will put patients, carers and local communities at the heart of the NHS. In addition the Government's transparency agenda, along with the wider information sharing agenda instigated by the health service ombudsman, the Department of Health and regulatory bodies should help to ensure that in future, information in respect of complaints will be more widely available to the public to inform choice and to highlight areas of healthcare provision that need improvement.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Report on Phone Hacking (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Today I am publishing the Government's response to the 13th report of the Home Affairs Committee into the "Unauthorised tapping into or hacking of mobile communications".

The Committee's report highlights a number of issues arising from the activities of journalists at *News International* and their associates, as well as the failings of the police investigations into those activities.

The Committee is to be commended for producing such a thorough report and for producing it so quickly after the final evidence sessions, so that it could inform the parliamentary debate in July and also sit usefully alongside other work that the Government have commissioned in this area, including:

> the inquiry being led by Lord Justice Leveson, commissioned by the Prime Minister;
>
> Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary's report considering instances of undue influence, inappropriate contractual arrangements and other abuses of power in police relationships with the media and other parties, which I have commissioned; and
>
> the Independent Police Complaints Commission's report into their experience of investigating police corruption and any lessons that can be learned for the police service, which I have also commissioned.

Many of the issues highlighted by the report are for the police service and the Government believe that the report is a valuable contribution to the debate around changes needed to police culture.

Alongside the Government's response to the Home Affairs Committee's report, we are also publishing the first report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission on their experience of police corruption. Both documents will be available on the Home Office website and copies will be available from the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Revised Framework Document (Information Commissioner's Office and the Ministry of Justice)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> Today I am publishing the revised framework document that governs the day-to-day relationship between the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and the Ministry of Justice. Agreed by both the Information Commissioner and the Ministry of Justice, the revised document enhances significantly the independence of the ICO.
>
> The Government firmly support an independent and influential ICO and this revised framework complements the legislative clauses the Government introduced in the Protection of Freedoms Bill.
>
> Under the new framework, mechanisms are put in place to enable the ICO to retain certain types of income, subject to the outcome of the Protection of Freedoms Bill, and the reporting requirements on the ICO are significantly reduced. In addition to this, a number of changes have been introduced to allow the ICO greater freedom to make certain financial and administrative decisions.

However, while furthering the ICO's financial and administrative independence, the framework document ensures this is balanced with appropriate reporting arrangements to enable the Ministry of Justice to maintain and ensure the proper expenditure of public money allocated to the ICO.

Copies of the consultation revised framework document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures in Civil Matters

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government have decided to opt in to the regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters. The regulation meets the criteria set out in the coalition agreement with regard to EU justice and home affairs measures.

In accordance with the coalition agreement, the Government have said they will approach forthcoming legislation in the area of criminal justice on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and preserving the integrity of our criminal justice system

The draft regulation will benefit vulnerable people in Britain who may now feel more confident to travel within the EU due to greater protection. The draft regulation provides a quick and efficient mechanism. It aims to avoid those needing protection having to go through time-consuming court procedures and giving evidence on the same matters in another member state in order to get the protection they need.

The draft regulation covers "civil matters" and follows on from the draft directive on the European protection order which covers "criminal matters" which the UK has also opted into. The two separate instruments are intended to complement each other so that as many protection orders as possible are covered despite the differences in member states' systems.

TRANSPORT

Informal EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): The Polish presidency of the EU held an informal meeting of EU Transport Ministers in Gdansk and Sopot on 5 and 6 September. The UK was represented by officials. The theme was: "Mobilizing private financing for transport infrastructure". The debate was based on a number of questions put by the presidency, which were principally about the use of public-private partnerships.

The key points conveyed by the UK are as follows:

For the UK, the primary factor determining PPP use is whether it offers the best value for money compared to alternative delivery options. The features that impact on the value for money decision include: public sector access to private sector capital and expertise and the transfer of financial risk from the public to the private sector.

A key feature of the UK public sector comparator process is that it is not entirely based on a quantitative calculation of the respective delivery outcomes. The calculation is supported by a qualitative assessment of the respective delivery routes in terms of their viability, desirability and achievability.

The UK set out several examples of the use of PPP in the transport sector, which included contracts for street lighting, highway maintenance and London Underground. We reported that the experience of PPP in this sector has been mixed. While PPP programmes have helped secure significant infrastructure investment and, in a number of cases, achieved an improved record on the delivery of projects to time and budget, this has only been achieved by repeated interventions.

Work has recently been undertaken to achieve a stronger focus on flexibility. Project reviews are being undertaken to improve the delivery of cost reductions and value for money. New PPP projects are subject to tougher approval and assurance processes. The UK no longer uses the PPP format to source projects for which there is an insufficient capital requirement or continuing lifecycle maintenance/service obligation, or for lower value projects.

The UK emphasised that while PPP remains a useful procurement option, it is not suitable for every project and should only be selected when it can demonstrate that it provides a better value for money outcome than conventional procurement processes.

The UK noted that a fundamental feature of PPP structures is that they provide for availability payments over the life of a long-term service contract. However, EU regulations only provide for availability payments that are linked to development and construction pre-payments. If operational availability payments are not permitted, this could distort the decision-making process on the type of PPP structure that is adopted and unnecessarily constrain the options available to member states.

Maritime Incident Response Group

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): As part of the comprehensive spending review that the Government set out last October, we announced the intention to consult interested parties about a review of the maritime incident response group (MIRG) funded by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Since it was established in 2006, the MIRG has responded to just six fire incidents and has not had a significant impact on the outcome of any of those. Since February the MCA has consulted those fire and rescue services providing the current MIRG capability.

Feedback from the shipping industry suggests that the most valued service provided by the MIRG is their initial fire assessment advice. The MCA had therefore initially hoped that the fire and rescue services providing the current MIRG capability would be able to provide such a service, but agreement on this has not been possible. The Government therefore intend to establish alternative arrangements for such a fire assessment and advice service using commercial salvors.

Under the new arrangements professional personnel will be deployed to an incident to make an assessment of the status of a fire and to provide advice on the best course of action and—as in many cases today—reassure port authorities that a ship can be safely accepted into a port so that shore based fire fighters can attend to the fire. This approach recognises that international legislation already requires that all ships' crews are trained and equipped to fight fires on ships.

The new service will not require funding from the public purse as costs will be recoverable. A 90-day notice period will begin today and the existing MIRG arrangement will end on 14 December 2011.

Sale of Trust Ports

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): On 3 August 2011 I announced the criteria that the Government will consider particularly relevant to the appropriateness of the sale of a major trust port in England or Wales under the Ports Act 1991. This followed the consultation that I announced on 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 4WS, and which closed on 27 June. I regret that it was not possible to announce this first by written ministerial statement to the House, but I did not wish to delay consideration of the application by Dover Harbour Board for a transfer scheme.

I am aware that Dover Harbour Board has now considered the criteria, intends to proceed with its application for a transfer scheme under the Ports Act 1991, and proposes to submit a new set of documents containing a further elaboration of its scheme for decision by the Minister of State under the new criteria. If interested parties would find it useful and seek my Department's assistance, we would be happy to consider ways in which properly to facilitate discussions on all the options before the Dover Harbour Board submits its elaborated proposal. I should make clear that the decision Minister would take no part in such discussions and would continue to perform her statutory functions in an objective, impartial manner whatever the outcome of any such discussions.

The following paragraphs set out the revised policy which the Secretary of State expects to follow when considering an application under the Ports Act 1991 for the sale of a major trust port in England or Wales. This covers the consideration of any proposal for a transfer scheme submitted under section 9 or 10 of the 1991 Act, together with the exercise of the Secretary of State's functions in respect of the subsequent sale of the port to which the scheme relates. The Secretary of State also intends to have particular regard to the policy considerations set out below before making a transfer scheme himself under section 12 of the 1991 Act or subsequently approving the sale of a port to which such a scheme relates.

Essential criteria

Community participation

The Secretary of State will not approve an application for the sale of a trust port under the 1991 Act unless the sale is considered likely to deliver an enduring and significant level of community participation in the port. Such participation could take a variety of forms, but must include the ability to influence the port's long-term development and may include the right to receive a share in the profits of the port, or the future increase in its value. It does not necessarily require a community role in the operation of the port.

Future investment in, and development of, the port

The Secretary of State will not approve an application unless the sale is considered likely to deliver an ownership model with the capability and access to capital to meet future investment needs and to exploit development potential of the port.

Fair price

The Secretary of State will not approve an application unless the sale is considered likely to represent good value for money, having regard not only to Exchequer proceeds and market conditions, but also to other benefits including those to the community and the wider economy.

Fair competition

The Secretary of State will not approve an application that is likely to deliver an ownership model which results in unsatisfactory levels of competition in the relevant sector.

Highly Desirable criteria

Transport networks

It is highly desirable for an application to be likely to deliver an ownership model which will cause the port to be operated so as to contribute to reliable, resilient and efficient transport networks.

Sale process

It is highly desirable that the sale should be conducted in such a way as to give all bona fide prospective purchasers a fair and equitable opportunity to participate.

Desirable criteria

Employee involvement

It is desirable for an application to be likely to deliver port employee participation in the ownership of the port, such as the right to receive equity shares or a share in its future success.[1]

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[1] This is without prejudice to the Ports Act 1991 section 5(3) requirement to have particular regard to the desirability of encouraging the disposal of the whole or a substantial part of the equity share capital of the successor company to managers or other persons employed by the port company etc.

Petitions

Monday 5 September 2011

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Development (Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas

Sheweth,

that the Petitioners believe that the application to build 115 new houses at the north end of Station road in Higham Ferrers will put intolerable pressure on public services and local infrastructure, in particular the A6/A45 junction at Chowns Mill which is already severely congested, pressure on already overcrowded schools, demands on public transport which is already inadequate, additional burdens on the already hard pressed on the local NHS; that the application should not be approved until significant improvements have been made in local infrastructure.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with Secretary of State for Transport and East Northamptonshire District Council and Higham Ferrers Parish Council to find a solution to the overdevelopment of Higham Ferrers and lack of infrastructure.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr Peter Bone, Official Report,* 19 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 7P.]

[P000949]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 18 August 2011:

East Northamptonshire District Council is responsible for the day-to-day planning control in their areas, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any planning application. The Government's policy is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of a local planning authority unless it is necessary to do so. This is because local authority councillors are elected to represent the views of local people and, in the main, it is these councillors who are in the best position to decide whether a development should go ahead.

In determining a planning application the local planning authority is required to have regard to all material considerations including the development plan, national policies and views expressed by third parties.

In relation to the perceived lack of infrastructure, petitioners may wish to make enquiries of the local authority about whether a planning obligation is being negotiated. Planning obligations are private agreements between local planning authorities and persons with an interest in the land (usually developers), in order to make developments acceptable in planning terms. Policy on the use of planning obligations is set out in Circular 5/05.

Petitioners will also be interested in the details of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which came into force in April 2010. This will allow local authorities in England and Wales to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. This includes transport schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals and other health and social care facilities, parks, green spaces and leisure centres.

Further details on planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/communityinfrastructurelevy/

Development on the Riverside Gardens, Erith

The Petition of residents of the London Borough of Bexley,

Declares that the petitioners oppose Bexley Council's Erith Gateway plan to allow for blocks of flats to be built on part of the Riverside Gardens in Erith; that the Riverside Gardens were gifted to the people of Erith by the former coal company William Cory and Son for use by the local community; and that the Riverside Gardens should be designated a Town Green and protected as an open green space.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to allow for greater protection for green areas of particular importance to local communities in the Localism Bill, as outlined in his Department's plan 2011-2015.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Teresa Pearce, Official Report,* 13 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 426-27.]

[P000938]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 17 August 2011:

The Government are committed to passing power and freedoms to local communities and opening up greater opportunities for them to influence what happens in the neighbourhoods where they live. On 25 July, the Department for Communities and Local Government published for consultation a new, simpler framework for the planning system. The new National Planning Policy Framework streamlines planning policy into an easy to understand set of policies that enable local communities in producing their own plans to reflect their distinctive needs and priorities. The draft Framework takes forward the Government's commitment in the Natural Environment White Paper to allow communities to earmark important local green spaces for special protection.

The Government want to avoid the rigid rules that apply to statutory designations. They believe that local people know best the local green spaces that are special to them and are therefore proposing that local communities should be able to use their local and neighbourhood plans to designate these areas. As local people plan for the sustainable development needed in their communities, they will be able to use the new powers in the draft framework to give special protection to green areas that have a particular local significance. This local significance could be because of the green area's beauty, historic importance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.

The Government are proposing that the new Local Green Space designation should afford strong protection, because of the importance of green spaces to the health and happiness of local communities. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space will therefore be expected to be consistent with policy for Green Belts. This means that by designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.

The Government are keen to hear views on the draft National Planning Policy Framework and the proposed Local Green Space designation. The draft framework is available via the Department for Communities and Local Government's website:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframeworkconsultation

Licensing of Mobile Home Parks

The Petition of the residents of Palma Park Homes, Loughborough, Leicestershire

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about the standards of conduct exhibited by the owner of Palma Park Homes.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to introduce a fair, clear and simple licensing system for those owning mobile home parks, so that licence holders must show that they are fit and proper persons to hold such a licence, and that any regulations or legislation should set out how a licence may be revoked if a licence holder is found by the local authority to no longer meet the fit and proper criteria.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Nicky Morgan, Official Report,* 18 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 762-63.]

[P000945]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 18 August 2011:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government observes that a licensing system is already in place for mobile home sites under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. He plans to consult shortly on reforms to the current regime with a view to making it more effective in protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents. However, the Secretary of State is not convinced that a requirement that all site owners are fit and proper is necessary or would be effective in delivering protection to residents. He is concerned that such a requirement would place an undue bureaucratic and costly burden on local authorities and the many good site owners who manage their sites professionally and lawfully. The proposed licensing reforms, on which he plans to consult, will enable local authorities to target those owners who mismanage their sites and pay scant regard to the law.

EDUCATION

McMillan Daycare Nursery (Hull)

The Petition of Kerry Stansfield and Abigail Flavell,

Declares that statements made by Ministers of the Crown to the effect that Sure Start children's centres across the country have sufficient funding to continue providing the level of service that they have attained in recent years, appear to be contradicted by the reductions that are happening across the country; further declares that the petitioners believe that the resulting reduction in the affordable childcare in children's centres will discourage some parents from seeking employment and will prove damaging for the long-term development of children.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges Ministers to review the funding arrangements for children's centres to ensure that the valuable investment in the future that they represent is protected.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Diana Johnson, Official Report,* 14 June 2011; Vol. 529, c. 750.]

[P000929]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education, received 4 August 2011:

Through the Spending Review, the Government prioritised early years provision. The Government want to reform early years education and children's centres so that all children and families receive the support they need, particularly the most vulnerable. Sure Start children's centres are now being funded through the Government's Early Intervention Grant (EIG) provided to local authorities. There is enough money in the grant to retain a network of children's centres. Ministers have been clear that they want children's centres to maintain their presence as community hubs, but with a greater focus on supporting those families in greatest need.

The Government have responded to views from local authorities and provided them with greater flexibility in how they spend their money. Funding for children's centres is no longer ring-fenced and it is for local authorities to decide how to run their services; they need to make judgments based on local needs and what works best. In tough economic times, however, it is crucial that local authorities listen to what local communities need and want.

Local authorities remain responsible for ensuring that there is sufficient high-quality early education and childcare across the whole of their community. The Government are committed to high-quality childcare and have increased the free childcare offer for 3 and 4-year-olds to 15 hours. The evidence is clear about the impact quality has on outcomes for children. Local authorities have duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres and, as far as is reasonably practicable, to secure sufficient children's centres provision to meet local need. It is vital that any changes are based on proper consultation with local parents and communities. However, it is for local authorities through that process to determine the exact nature of that provision.

Petitions

Tuesday 6 September 2011

OBSERVATIONS

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Consultation on Electricity Transmission in Somerset

The Petition of residents of Wells and others,

Declares that the Petitioners believe National Grid's consultation on proposals to erect 152 feet high pylons is flawed; that the proposal would blight the beautiful unspoiled Somerset countryside; and further declares that the Petitioners accept that electricity transmission is essential but the Petitioners are concerned that National Grid is offering consultees a choice between two unacceptable routes, chosen by National Grid solely on the basis of cost, to the exclusion of other viable options such as undergrounding, under the Bristol Channel or along the M5 corridor.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to encourage National Grid to stop the current consultation into electricity transmission in Somerset and consider other viable options.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tessa Munt, Official Report,* 18 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 762 .]

[P000943]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:

The Government recognise the importance of effective consultation taking place with the communities affected by proposed electricity network infrastructure projects. It is also important to note that new electricity network infrastructure projects will allow new generation to connect and add to the reliability of the national energy supply.

National Grid has a statutory duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission. Under the same Act it is also required to have regard to a range of impacts any of its proposals may have, and to do what it reasonably can to mitigate them.

The Planning Act 2008 makes extensive provision about the consultation which developers must carry out with local authorities, local communities and statutory bodies before making an application for new electricity network infrastructure. I am aware that local authorities and local people have responded to National Grid's consultation on the Hinkley Point C connection project.

Decisions will be taken with regard to the energy National Policy Statements which set out national policy and typical impacts against which proposals for major energy projects will be assessed. In respect of electricity networks, in circumstances where visual impact of overhead lines is particularly significant developers are required to give consideration to alternatives including underground or subsea cables. Decision makers are required to take alternatives and other mitigation measures into account when examining and determining applications.

Subject to the Localism Bill receiving Royal Assent the IPC will be abolished in April 2012 and I, as the relevant Government Minister, will be responsible for determining the proposed National Grid Hinkley to Seabank grid connection application. It would therefore not be appropriate for the Government to intervene in this matter before National Grid's application has been made and examined.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ethiopia (Human Rights)

The Petition of Ethiopian refugees resident in Britain,

Declares that more than one third of Ethiopia's budget consists of foreign aid; notes that Ethiopia has made progress towards achieving some of the UN Millennium Development Goals; notes that the Petitioners believe that there is a systemic disregard for human rights by the Ethiopian Government; and notes with concern the systemic violation of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights enshrined in the Ethiopian constitution and guaranteed in UN conventions to which Ethiopia is signatory, in particular: detention without fair trial of political opponents and critics of the Government; politically motivated extra-judicial killings; routine torture and rape of detainees; crimes against humanity committed by Ethiopian forces in the Somali region and in Gambella, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region; discriminatory distribution of state assistance, including internationally-funded aid; forced relocation of farmers and pastoralists for the benefit of local and foreign investors; restriction on the activities of civil society, and surveillance and harassment of refugees in the diaspora.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to withdraw unconditional political and financial support to the Ethiopian Government and to exert effective diplomatic pressure on the Ethiopian Government to: release or subject to fair trial by independent judiciary all political detainees; investigate and punish those responsible for the killing, torture and rape of perceived political opponents, and repeal or amend the Charities and Societies Proclamation and take positive steps to encourage independent civil society, democratic pluralism and a culture of respect for human rights in Ethiopia.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Malcolm Bruce, Official Report,* 19 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 7P .]

[P000950]

Observations from the Secretary of State for International Development:

From a low base, Ethiopia's growth and expansion of basic services in recent years have been among the most impressive in Africa. The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is committed to growth and development, and is a proven partner in making rapid progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the last five years, with substantial support from the UK and others, Ethiopia has: halved the incidence of malaria; deployed 32,000 more health extension workers; doubled the immunisation rate; rolled out an innovative social safety net to protect almost 8 million of the most vulnerable people; and put 4 million more children in primary school.

Over the next four years, UK aid will help 2 million children go to school, 1.4 million people gain access to water, and deliver 500,000 safe births. We will focus on the delivery of results for the poorest and most vulnerable people in Ethiopia, drive greater value for money for UK taxpayers and become more transparent in the way we work.

Ethiopia became a democracy in 1991, only 20 years ago. The Government of Ethiopia have made some progress towards a fully functioning democracy and increasing respect for human rights, but there is still a way to go. Improved political space in Ethiopia is vital to Ethiopia's long-term stability and development. The UK Government believe that opening political space and ensuring vital human rights are protected can best be achieved through constructive, but honest, engagement with GoE, and not by withdrawing our support which we know is improving the lives of millions of poor and vulnerable Ethiopians.

Publically and privately, the UK has been at the forefront of advocating on a range of human rights issues in Ethiopia, including the release of opposition and civil society leaders in 2007. During visits in recent months, the Foreign Secretary, International Development Secretary and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have raised democracy and human rights with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. During the lead-up to the 2010 elections, we supported the media to provide a more neutral coverage, we initiated and funded a code of conduct, and issued clear and critical statements following the election. We also have a long history of support to improve justice and the standards in prisons.

The Government take very seriously all allegations of politically-motivated detentions, torture and extra-judicial killings. We have previously called on the Government of Ethiopia to allow an independent investigation into allegations of serious human rights abuses in the Somali Region, and continue to raise concerns about the restrictions placed on humanitarian access to this part of Ethiopia. We have lobbied, and continue to lobby, the Government of Ethiopia to adopt the Optional Protocol on the UN Convention against Torture, as well as seeking to ensure that the Convention is implemented in practice.

We are unaware of any cases of the Ethiopian diaspora in the UK being the subject of surveillance and harassment. Were such allegations found to be true, we would take swift and firm action with the relevant individuals and authorities.

We are in regular contact with human rights organisations, including Human Rights Watch, and take their concerns about aid to Ethiopia very seriously. When allegations of misuse of aid in Ethiopia were first made early last year, we took immediate action. Working with other donors, we launched a detailed study into the systems for delivering aid to some 60 million poor people in Ethiopia. That study, published a year ago, found that there were good safeguards for preventing distortion of aid, and made recommendations on how to further strengthen systems and safeguards and improve transparency and independent monitoring. We are now working with other donors and the Government of Ethiopia to put these recommendations into practice.

The UK Government currently support seven state institutions, including the Human Rights Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission, which are designed to underpin democracy, but are still relatively new and weak. At the same time, we also support independent, non-governmental organisations such as Justice for All-Prison Fellowship, Transparency International, and the Human Rights Institute at Addis Ababa University, which advocate on and directly support people's political rights and access to justice. We plan to expand our support to civil society and democratisation significantly during the next few years.

DFID monitors the relocation of farmers and pastoralist communities under the Government of Ethiopia's Commune Programme in Gambella, Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz and Afar regions. The programme is designed to increase access to services and strengthen the food security of voluntarily resettled communities. At this time, neither DFID nor the wider international community has received evidence or verified reports that resettlement has been forcibly implemented. However, we recognise the potential risks associated with the implementation of this plan and have engaged in the development of guidelines and principles for all relocations of communities. These guidelines emphasise consultation, compensation, redress and the centrality of a voluntary process in all resettlements across the country. They have been agreed with the Government of Ethiopia.

We share the concerns of many civil society organisations about the possible impact of the Charities and Societies Proclamation on the effective functioning of civil society across the country. In response, we are working with other donors to provide evidence-based advocacy to the Government of Ethiopia concerning the impact of this law, and are strengthening the capacity of the Charities and Societies Agency for constructive engagement with civil society.

TREASURY

Living Wage (Royal Household)

The Humble Petition of residents of London and others,

Declares that cleaners working for the Royal Households in London are paid £6.45 per hour even though the London Living Wage was set at £7.85 until April 2011; declares that cleaners in the House of Commons and House of Lords are paid at the rate of the London living wage; further declares that the Petitioners believe that as £30 million of taxpayer's money is paid to the Royal family annually for the upkeep of the Royal Households it is clear that the London living wage of £7.85 is affordable.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to encourage the Royal Households to ensure that all cleaners working within the Royal Households are paid the London living wage of £7.85 per hour, a rate that is supported by the Mayor of London.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.,—*[Presented by John McDonnell, Official Report,* 19 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 908 .]

[P000947]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government thank the hon. Member for Belfast South (Dr McDonnell) for his petition on the salaries of the cleaners who work for the Royal Household.

The Government acknowledge the hon. Member's passion for ensuring that people working in London and elsewhere should be paid a living wage. Indeed he raised the issue for consideration as part of the Committee stage of the Sovereign Grant Bill, which was debated in the House of Commons in July of this year.

The Royal Household employs a contractor to supply cleaning services to the estates in London.

The Government fully support public sector contractors paying their staff fair and decent wages, subject to the constraints of efficiency and value for money for the taxpayer.

The Government take these issues seriously. However, it would be inappropriate for the Government to impose such constraints on specific contractors.

Petitions

Wednesday 7 September 2011

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Redevelopment of Rushden Hospital Site

The Humble Petition of residents of Rushden, Northamptonshire and the surrounding areas,

Sheweth,

that the proposed revised redevelopment of the Rushden Hospital site for housing is unpopular, ill-advised and detrimental to the residents of Rushden; that over 25% of the residents of Rushden petitioned the House of Commons for a new outpatient facility in the town, the majority wanting the new facility on the Rushden hospital site; that the proposal to build housing on the site instead of an NHS facility is unacceptable and the impact on the surrounding roads of a large housing development and the density of the development and the proposed cut through to the Greenacre Drive Estate is wholly detrimental to local residents and notes that a similar proposal for housing development on this site was not approved by East Northamptonshire District Council.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to urge the Department of Health to withdraw the revised planning application and further urges him to request that the District Council of East Northamptonshire and the County Council and the Primary Care Trust work together to provide a suitable health facility on the site.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr Peter Bone, Official Report,* 5 July 2011; Vol. 530, c. 1481 .]

[P000937]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to East Northamptonshire District Council by the Department for Health. He is advised that the application was validated 4 June 2010 is pending determination.

East Northamptonshire District Council is responsible for the day-to-day development management matters in that area. It would be inappropriate for the Secretary of State to intervene in respect of any planning application which is with a local planning authority for consideration.

Furthermore, it would not be appropriate for the Secretary of State to intervene in health service provision matters. These decisions fall within the purview of the Secretary of State for Health.

There is a statutory framework in place to ensure that local planning authorities publicise the planning applications that are submitted to them, and have regard to any representations that they receive on those applications from members of the community and others.

In determining any planning application the local planning authority are required to have regard the development plan for the area, so far as it is material to the application being considered, and to any other material considerations.

While the Secretary of State does have powers to "call-in" a planning application for his own determination, if he considers that it raises matters of more than local importance, his policy is to be very selective about this. The Secretary of State has not been asked to call this particular application in.

As it is possible that this proposal may, at some future date, come within his jurisdiction (for example in the event of a planning appeal), it would be inappropriate to comment on the specific issues raised in the petition.

JUSTICE

Sentences for causing death by dangerous driving

The Petition of Christine, Kevin and Victoria Shields and others,

Declares that the Petitioners' beloved daughter, Katie, was killed on the A16 last year by a speeding driver; and that the offender received just two years for this crime.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government to introduce stiffer sentences for drivers who cause death by dangerous driving.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented, Official Report,* 14 September 2010; Vol. 515, c. 9P-10P .]

[P000861]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The maximum penalty for causing death by dangerous driving is 14 years custody as well as a compulsory minimum two-year disqualification and an extended re-test. Within this statutory limit it is for the courts to decide what sentence to impose in any particular case. The courts operate independently of Government and in deciding what sentence to impose, take into account all the circumstances of the offence and the offender, together with any aggravating and mitigating circumstances and sentencing guidelines. There are no plans to increase this maximum penalty.

The independent Sentencing Guidelines Council published its Guideline on Causing Death by Driving in July 2008. The Guideline details 3 levels of seriousness. At the most serious end of the scale. Level 1 offences encompass driving that involved a deliberate decision to ignore (or a flagrant disregard for) the rules of the road and an apparent disregard for the great danger being caused to others. The starting point for such an offence would be eight years custody, with a sentencing range of seven to 14 years custody. Level 2 offences, where the driving created a substantial risk of danger, have a starting point of five years and a sentencing range of four to seven years custody. Level 3 offences, at the other end of the scale, where the driving behaviour created a significant risk of danger have a starting point of three years and a sentencing range of two to five years custody.

Road traffic cases present particular difficulties for the courts. This is because it is not always the worst transgression by a driver that has the most tragic consequences. Sometimes the consequences of a collision may be entirely disproportionate to the culpability of the offender. A relatively minor misdemeanour by a driver may have very tragic consequences whereas thoroughly reckless behaviour on the road may fortuitously result in little, if any, harm. The law therefore seeks to punish those who cause death or injury on the road in a way that is appropriate to the degree of blameworthiness on the part of the driver.

Petition

Thursday 8 September 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Future of the British Train Building Industry

The Petition of citizens of the United Kingdom,

Declares that they are concerned about the future of the British train building industry. Their concern is a consequence of the decision to appoint Siemens as the preferred bidder for the new fleet of trains for the Thameslink Programme.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reverse this decision.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Williamson, Official Report,*18 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 761.]

[P000941]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

On 16 June 2011 the Department for Transport appointed Siemens plc with Cross London Trains (XLT) (a special purpose company comprising Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, Innisfree Ltd and 3i Infrastructure plc) as the preferred bidder for the provision of the new trains required for the Thameslink Programme.

I am fully aware of the disappointment caused by the decision to award only reserve bidder status to the consortium led by Bombardier but I am afraid it was clear that the Siemens bid offered better value for money for the taxpayer.

The competition to supply trains and maintenance services for the Thameslink programme was designed and launched in 2008 by the previous Government, in accordance with EU procurement procedures. In October 2009, my predecessor announced that the two remaining short-listed bidders were Siemens plc with XLT and Bombardier Transportation UK Ltd with Velocity.

The Department is required by law to treat all potential suppliers equally and in a non-discriminatory manner. Specifically, the Department is not able to specify the location of manufacturing facilities, nor UK job creation, as one of its evaluation criteria. To do so would be contrary to EU procurement requirements. The detailed evaluation criteria for the Thameslink rolling stock contract were set by the previous Government at the Invitation to Tender stage. They are available in their archives at www.bit.ly/inm30t.

The Department is required to comply with the processes and evaluation criteria set out in the bid documentation (and specified by the previous Administration). The result of the competition, when the bids were evaluated in accordance with the pre-announced criteria, was conclusive and the Department could not have lawfully appointed Bombardier as preferred bidder. Had it sought to do so, it would almost certainly have been subject to a legal challenge not merely for damages, but for aninjunction (under the EU Remedies Directive) preventing the award of the contract to Bombardier.

The only alternative action that I could have taken in relation to this procurement was to suspend the competition and reconsider the entire Thameslink project. At the very least, such a move would introduce significant delay to the project which, in the extreme case of a decision to re-specify the requirement and restart the bidding process, would be likely to extend to two or more years. This was never a credible option for three reasons:

1. Large amounts of public money have already been spent on infrastructure improvements for Thameslink (including the complete rebuilding of Blackfriars Station);
2. The additional capacity that Thameslink will provide is urgently needed by London commuters, and the 400+ rail vehicles that will be released for redeployment elsewhere are also urgently needed to address overcrowding. Without them, the planned electrification programme for the Great Western Mainline and for the Liverpool/Manchester area could not proceed.
3. Most importantly, there was no possible outcome, even following a project review and a decision to re-specify and re-tender, that could possibly have resulted in an early award of a contract to Bombardier and thus the prevention of some of the job losses incurred.

Of course any job losses at Bombardier are highly regrettable. Prior to the decision on preferred bidder status. Bombardier had advised the Department for Transport that it expected to make over 1,000 redundancies, regardless of the outcome of the Thameslink procurement, because several of its orders are about to reach completion. But whatever the reason for the redundancies, I want to try to help the company and its supply chain at this difficult time.

As a result of the review by Bombardier Transportation of its UK rail operations, the Business Secretary has set up an economic response task force. This is being headed by Margaret Gildea and its remit is to mitigate the economic impact of job losses at Bombardier, in its supply chain and in local communities. It is drawing on representatives from Derby City Council, Derby City College and the Skills Funding Agency. Jobcentre Plus will also deploy its Rapid Response Service to support workers that will be affected.

While I recognise that the Thameslink decision has come as a blow to Bombardier and its employees, the company has had a strong track record in winning orders in the past and there is every reason to expect that to continue in the future. In the comprehensive spending review we secured funding for the tube upgrades and one of the most extensive programmes of rail capacity improvements in modern history. Those two programmes will continue to offer significant opportunities for Bombardier and other supply chain and train manufacturing related businesses in the UK.

The Secretary of State for Business and I have also jointly written to the Prime Minister to recommend that we examine wider issues around the approach taken in the UK to the public procurement process, to compare our approach to that of other EU member states and to consider whether any changes in our procurement practices and the evaluation criteria specified in procurement tenders should be made.

Petition

Monday 12 September 2011

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Development (Luton)

The Petition of residents of Luton,

Declares that the Petitioners strongly object to the Strategic Specific Site Allocation to the North of Luton, to the employment sites at Sundon and beside the A6 and to the proposed Luton Northern Bypass; notes that the Petitioners believe that the location for development is wrong because of the distance to Luton Town Centre, the limitation to increase capacity on the existing roads like the A6 and B579, the impact on schools and other local facilities, its poor location in relation to public transport, the direct impact on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the negative social and economic impacts on the nearby residents and the costs to the taxpayer; and further notes that the Petitioners believe that there are better alternatives for growth instead.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Luton Borough Council to consider alternative sites for development in and around Luton.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Kelvin Hopkins, Official Report,* 30 March 2011; Vol. 526, c. 486.]

[P000911]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The allocations referred to are contained in the Luton and southern Central Bedfordshire Joint Core Strategy. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government received a request on 1 August from the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee for the withdrawal of the Core Strategy. In response to this request, the Secretary of State has written to the Joint Committee on 7 September directing that the Core Strategy must be withdrawn. Following this direction, the petitioners may wish to discuss their concerns with Luton Borough Council, who are responsible for preparing a plan for the area.

Petitions

Tuesday 13 September 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Prevention of Abuse of Adults in Residential Care

The petition of supporters of The National Autistic Society,

Declares that the petitioners believe that the Secretary of State for Health should take urgent action to prevent abuse in residential care settings and work with commissioners, providers, individuals receiving support and their families to ensure that vulnerable adults are treated in a dignified, safe, enabling and respectful way.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department of Health to urgently review the work of the Care Quality Commission and the appropriateness of the inspection regime for protecting vulnerable adults in out-of-area residential accommodation.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John Pugh, Official Report,* 19 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 907 .]

[P000948]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issue referred to relates to the abuse uncovered by a BBC Panorama programme at Winterbourne View, an independent hospital for people with learning disabilities.

When the abuse at Winterbourne View became known, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), commissioners and other agencies took prompt action to safeguard the patients there. Winterbourne View has now been closed permanently and Castlebeck Care is no longer registered to provide services at this location.

The Government are committed to learning the lessons from this tragic case and a number of actions are underway to ensure that this happens.

CQC is undertaking a number of reviews of services for people with learning disabilities starting with the review of all of Castlebeck's facilities in England. Reports on each of these reviews were published on Thursday 28 July and where CQC has found that services are not meeting the essential safety and quality requirements, CQC is taking appropriate action.

CQC is also undertaking a focused inspection programme to review care for people with learning disabilities in independent hospitals. The review will be in two phases:

> phase 1 will consist of the inspection of 150 services that provide care for people with learning disabilities;
>
> phase 2 will use the learning from phase one to look at a sample of other registered services covering alternative models of provision for people with learning disabilities.

In undertaking these reviews, where inspections identify care and treatment that does not comply with the safety and quality requirements for example the requirement on safeguarding service users from abuse, CQC has powers to take enforcement action. This includes the power to issue the provider with a warning notice that requires improvement within a specified time, prosecution and the power to cancel a provider's registration, removing its ability to provide regulated activities.

In addition to the reviews CQC is undertaking into services for people with learning disabilities, CQC is undertaking an internal review of its actions. This, along with reviews by other bodies involved as well as the independently chaired Serious Case Review will feed into an overall review by the Department of Health which will be draw together the key lessons. This work is being led by Bruce Calderwood, Mental Health and Learning Disability Director for the Department. A panel of experts including Professor Jim Mansell, Mark Goldring and Anne Williams will advise the review. Its activities will be informed by the views of service user and carer representatives including the National Forum for People with Learning Difficulties, the Challenging Behaviour Foundation and the National Valuing Families Forum. Ministers will then report further to Parliament.

The forthcoming Care and Support White Paper will look at the quality framework for social care as a whole, to make sure we have got the right arrangements in place to ensure high standards for all people who receive care.

The White Paper will be informed by an engagement process over the autumn on priorities for social care reform and we will set out more detail about our plans imminently.

Petition

Thursday 15 September 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Glass Bottles (Pubs and Clubs)

The Petition of residents of the United Kingdom,

Declares the Petitioners concern that glass bottles can cause serious harm to victims when used as a weapon.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward a law to stop the serving of glass bottles and glasses in pubs and clubs after 9 pm.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sheryll Murray, Official Report,* 20 July 2011; Vol. 531, c. 11P.]

[P000952]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government condemn the horrific bottle attack suffered by Mr Jack Nutting and praises the campaign he has launched to prevent this happening to others.

The Government recognise the benefits that glassware bans and safer alternatives to traditional glassware can have in limiting the harm caused by alcohol-related violence. However, we do not consider that a ban on glass bottles and other glassware should apply to all pubs and clubs nationwide after 9 pm. Many licensed premises operate without any violent incidents.

The Government therefore believe that they should avoid dictating from the centre and instead empower the police, communities, and licensing authorities to take steps to prevent alcohol-related crime and disorder, including banning glassware, when it is appropriate in the particular circumstances. The Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) devolves responsibility for the administration of licensing to local authorities acting as "licensing authorities" (LAs). Any premises wishing to sell alcohol must submit an application to the local LA, which must discharge its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives. These are: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the protection of children from harm; and the prevention of public nuisance.

Under the Act as it currently stands, a "responsible authority" (such as the police), or residents and businesses "in the vicinity" of the premises, can make a representation about the application. The LA will ordinarily hold a hearing to consider the representation, which can result in conditions being imposed on the licence that are "necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives". A number of conditions relating to glassware are quite common. They include bans on the use of bottles by customers; requirements for the use of safer alternatives to traditional glassware; and bans on customers leaving with glassware. These conditions can be absolute, or may apply at certain times or contain other exceptions (such as for wine bottles sold as part of a table meal). Therefore, if the police consider that the premises may, due to its location and style, present a risk of violent crime, they can make a representation to seek the imposition of conditions that are specific to the premises. Carrying out licensable activities otherwise than in accordance with an authorisation is a serious criminal offence, so these conditions have real impact.

After the licence has been granted, responsible authorities and interested parties can apply to the licensing authority at any time for a review of the licence. Therefore, a ban on bottles or glassware is likely to be imposed after an incident of crime and disorder, whilst more serious or repeat incidents may result in the premises being shut down either temporarily or permanently.

The Government are currently bringing forward measures in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill (the PRSR Bill) that will shift the balance of the Act in favour of communities and the police. In particular, the limitation that only those members of the public or businesses who are "in the vicinity of the premises" can make a representation or apply for a review will be scrapped. This will mean that any person or business, regardless of where they live or operate, will be able to take these steps. The PRSR Bill also contains measures to make the LA itself a responsible authority, so that it does not have to wait for others to act before it takes steps to promote the licensing objectives.

Furthermore, we are lowering the test that applies to LAs' decisions from "necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives" to "appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives". This is an important change that will enable LAs to impose conditions more easily and without being constrained by the idea that they need to be sure that the condition is "necessary".

These measures will put communities and the police in a much better position to take steps to prevent violent crime and reduce the harm it causes.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 September 2011

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Allowances

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 958-59W, on Members: allowances, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority intends to make an assessment of the effects of its schemes on the mental health and well-being of hon. Members. [64901]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 13 July 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether we intend to make an assessment of the effect of our Schemes on the mental health of MPs.

We have not received evidence or representations that there is a need for such an assessment.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 957W, on Members: allowances, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority intends to make an assessment of the extent to which hon. Members are funding their parliamentary duties from personal resources. [64902]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 13 July 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether we intend to make an assessment of the extent to which MPs are funding parliamentary duties from personal resources.

There is no requirement for any MP to use his or her personal resources to pay for costs allowable under the MPs' Expenses Scheme. We have introduced several mechanisms to ease any potential cashflow problems for MPs including:

an interest-free loan of up to £4,000;

the use of a payment card for a number of types of expenses; and

payment on invoice and direct payments for rent and pooled research services.

Where an MP necessarily incurs a cost related to their parliamentary functions which is not covered by the MPs' Expenses Scheme, they may also apply to the contingency fund.

We estimate that 71% of costs by volume may now be paid direct.

MPs may make representations about other costs not covered by the Expenses Scheme and we will consider such representations as part of the next Annual Review of the Scheme.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Leader of the House how many senior civil servants in his Office at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Office had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Office in each such year. [68961]

Sir George Young: None.

Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Leader of the House how many letters he received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68768]

Sir George Young: I received 17 letters from hon. Members during June 2011.

Official Hospitality

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67984]

Sir George Young: My Office has incurred no public expenditure on hospitality events for staff since May 2010.

Publicity

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office has spent on Ministerial photoshoots and videos since May 2010. [67985]

Sir George Young: My Office has incurred no cost on ministerial photoshoots or videos since May 2010.

Redundancy

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67987]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 667W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood).

Training

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what the training was for. [67986]

Sir George Young: The Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Leader of the House of Commons, the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr Heath), attended an Induction Training session for new Ministers provided by the National School of Government. Since May 2010, training for Ministers has been centrally funded by the Core Learning Programme.

Members: Pensions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Leader of the House if he will publish a list of the meetings he has held with representatives of each political party represented in the House of Commons on proposed changes to the pensions of hon. Members in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [68062]

Sir George Young: I have regular meetings with hon. and right hon. Members on this and other issues.

Third Sector

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Leader of the House what *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations he has visited in an official capacity since 12 May 2010. [67988]

Sir George Young: In my role as Leader of the House I attended and spoke at an event in support of the work of the Speakers' Corner Trust in October 2010. As a part of my ongoing commitment to tackling homelessness I also spoke at an event organised by the Rough Sleepers Initiative in March 2011.

I also attend regular events in support of charities and voluntary organisations in my role as a constituency Member of Parliament.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Chequers

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Prime Minister how many political cabinet meetings have taken place at Chequers since May 2010. [68091]

The Prime Minister: Two Cabinets have met at Chequers covering both Government and political business.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67907]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the details of my overseas travel which is published at least quarterly on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code.

Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister how many letters his Office received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68763]

The Prime Minister: My office received over 350 letters from hon. Members in June 2011, including those forwarding constituents' questions.

Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* the Prime Minister directly and *(b)* officials on behalf of the Prime Minister in November 2010. [67596]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1087W.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he has had with *(a)* social workers, *(b)* teachers, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* doctors, *(e)* police officers and *(f)* business leaders since May 2010. [68148]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he has had with *(a)* social workers, *(b)* teachers, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* doctors, *(e)* police officers and *(f)* business leaders since May 2010. [68300]

The Prime Minister: I regularly meet social workers, teachers, nurses, doctors, police officers and business leaders, including on visits around the country, and at receptions and meetings hosted at Number 10. For further information I refer the hon. Members to the Number 10 website, which often gives further information about my visits, to the lists of meetings with external organisations which is published at least quarterly, and the list of receptions hosted at Number 10. These are available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Human Rights: China

Jim Shannon: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese Delegation to the UK on the issue of *(a)* religious discrimination and *(b)* human rights. [68521]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave during the press conference with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on 27 June 2011. A transcript of the press conference is available on the Number 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2011/06/press-conference-with-premier-wen-jiabao-65285

Malaysia: Elections

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with the Prime Minister of Malaysia on electoral reform and the right to demonstrate in that country. [67444]

The Prime Minister: During the Prime Minister of Malaysia's visit to the United Kingdom we agreed on the importance of building more open and inclusive societies and supporting democracy over repression.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many meetings he has had with the National Security Adviser since the creation of the National Security Council; [67411]

(2) what role and responsibilities he has in relation to the National Security Council; and what recent contribution he has made to its work. [67413]

The Prime Minister: I chair the National Security Council which meets regularly, in some cases several times a week. The National Security Adviser is Secretary to the National Security Council and I therefore meet him on a regular basis, in addition to other meetings.

Taxation: European Union

Priti Patel: To ask the Prime Minister whether any proposal to introduce Europe-wide taxation measures for the purposes of raising resources for the EU would be subject to a referendum. [69101]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Section 7 of the European Union Act 2011 provides that a decision to use Article 311 TFEU to adopt a system of Own Resources would require approval through an Act of Parliament.

Third Sector

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation he has visited since 12 May 2010. [67532]

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Prime Minister what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation he has visited since 12 May 2010. [67667]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to my list of UK visits and the list of official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street which have been published on the Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

These include visits to Combat Stress and events held at 10 Downing street for charities including the British Red Cross and Great Ormond Street.

In addition my Office is undertaking volunteering activity with two social action partners during 2011: Blue Sky Development and Regeneration and Street League. For further details I refer the hon. Members to the press notice on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/12/number-10-staff-select-two-charities-to-support-in-2011-58400

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his office in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66580]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer today given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude).

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will consider keeping data on the number of times he has declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67192]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Pressures on my diary regrettably mean that I am not able to accept all requests for meetings. My office is not required to hold details of the number of meetings declined and there are no plans to do so.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many meetings he has had with the National Security Adviser since the creation of the National Security Council. [67326]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am the Deputy Chair of the National Security Council which meets regularly, in some cases several times a week. The National Security Adviser is Secretary to the National Security Council and I therefore meet him on a regular basis, as well as in the course of my wider responsibilities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Surplus Homes

19. **Greg Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to put into productive use empty and surplus property. [69940]

Robert Neill: We have recently consulted on proposals to make it easier to change use from commercial to residential and will make an announcement on the way forward soon.

We have already put in place powerful tools and incentives to support local communities to tackle empty homes and underused land and property.

20. **Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has considered taking steps to ensure better use of surplus holiday homes. [69941]

Andrew Stunell: I know my hon. Friend sees surplus holiday homes as a potential source of affordable housing.

Government reforms give high priority to housing supply, and the draft National Planning Policy Framework urges authorities to recognise the benefits of housing growth.

We will not, though, insist that permission should always be granted for using or redeveloping of holiday homes as permanent dwellings.

Green Belt

21. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to protect the green belt. [69943]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework is unequivocal in continuing the protection of the green belt.

By abolishing the previous Government's Regional Spatial Strategies, through the Localism Bill, we are removing the top-down pressure on local authorities to remove the green belt in 30 areas across England.

Affordable Housing

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the increase in the rate of VAT on housing associations wishing to build affordable homes. [68509]

Andrew Stunell: We have made no detailed assessment of the effect of the VAT increase on housing associations. These are organisations independent of Government who react individually to changes in market conditions.

However, I can confirm that housing associations' responses to the new Affordable Homes Programme, have allowed us to exceed our predictions. We now expect to provide up to 170,000 new affordable homes between 2011 and 2015, compared with our original estimate of 150,000.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1143W, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation to be used by his Department as a means of reducing its carbon dioxide emissions are to be manufactured in the UK. [67936]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold information on whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation to be used by the Department will be manufactured in the UK. Future energy generation contracts will be let by Cabinet Office on behalf of central Government as part of their Common Commodities Programme.

Contractors

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has a policy on requirements for the provision of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* other training by (i) his Department's prime contractors and (ii) suppliers in the supply chain of such contractors. [66600]

Robert Neill: The Department expects its suppliers and supply chain partners to deploy capable staff on contracts servicing our needs. Our procurement processes include relevant checks on supplier capability. It is for suppliers themselves to decide their training and apprenticeship requirements.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66602]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold this information.

Contractors: Payments

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what late payments to contractors his Department has made between June 2007 and May 2010; and what the total cost to the public purse was of any *(a)* penalty charges or *(b)* interest charges incurred in that period. [68394]

Robert Neill: The following table gives details of the total number of payments made by the Department and the number of payments paid late after 30 days. We do not have any record of paying penalty charges or interest charges for any of these late payments.

	Total payments	*Late payments*	*Percentage late*
June 2007	3,768	203	5.39
July 2007	3,746	245	6.54
August 2007	3,525	322	9.13
September 2007	3,300	252	7.64
October 2007	3,365	278	8.26
November 2007	3,797	473	12.46
December 2007	2,275	234	10.29
January 2008	2,785	658	23.63
February 2008	2,837	593	20.9

	Total payments	Late payments	Percentage late
March 2008	3,599	585	16.25
April 2008	3,587	329	9.17
May 2008	3,147	556	17.67
June 2008	3,119	396	12.7
July 2008	3,250	287	8.83
August 2008	2,939	29	0.99
September 2008	2,941	376	12.78
October 2008	3,767	464	12.32
November 2008	3,323	258	7.76
December 2008	2,939	110	3.74
January 2009	3,037	110	3.62
February 2009	2,770	129	4.66
March 2009	4,233	197	4.65
April 2009	3,555	246	6.92
May 2009	2,645	91	3.44
June 2009	3,056	72	2.36
July 2009	3,328	63	1.89
August 2009	2,941	101	3.43
September 2009	2,572	80	3.11
October 2009	2,946	50	1.7
November 2009	2,709	85	3.14
December 2009	2,364	101	4.27
January 2010	2,619	189	7.22
February 2010	2,741	206	7.52
March 2010	3,732	161	4.31
April 2010	2,674	146	5.46
May 2010	2,196	88	4.01

Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68762]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government received 984 letters from hon. Members in June 2011.

Official Cars

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* cars leased by his Department to staff and *(b)* ministerial chauffeurs between June 2007 and May 2010. [68382]

Robert Neill: The Department does not lease any cars to staff.

I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to the hon. Member for Bristol West (Stephen Williams) of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 608-69W.

Official Hospitality

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on entertaining in each financial year since 2007-08. [67733]

Robert Neill: We have interpreted entertainment to mean attendance at spectator type events such as concerts or sports. Departmental records show no such expenditure since 2007-08.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67812]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Staff hospitality is defined as the provision of food and drink for meetings. I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 745W, which outlined spending from May to December 2010. From January to June 2011, provisional records estimate that £21,262 was spent.

This compares with a comparable spend of £456,142 in 2009-10 under the last Administration. There has thus been a considerable reduction in spending as a consequence of cost-saving initiatives introduced under the new Government.

Departmental Pay

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated saving to the public purse was from lower staff wage costs arising from industrial action by staff of his Department on 30 June 2011. [68899]

Robert Neill: The total amount which will not be paid as salary to members of the Department for Communities and Local Government staff who participated in industrial action on 30 June 2011 is £22,136, excluding employer's national insurance and pension contributions.

Publicity

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on photo shoots and videos involving Ministers since May 2010. [67431]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* No ministerial photography has been purchased using taxpayers' money since May 2010. This compares with £2,648 of taxpayers' money spent on ministerial photography from April 2006 to April 2010.

Any videos featuring Ministers since May 2010 have been produced in-house. Therefore any expenditure incurred would have been part of overall running and salary costs, and no external costs have been incurred. By contrast, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 455W, for an example of excessive spending on ministerial videos under the last Administration.

Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66601]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the Department's spending over £500 and the details of new Government contracts can be found online as part of the Government's transparency initiative.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67247]

Robert Neill: The Department keeps a register of all contracts with a value of over £20,000 and records show that since May 2010, 21 contracts (31% of all such contracts) were awarded to small businesses.

Stationery

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of stationery purchased by his Department between June 2007 and May 2010. [68388]

Robert Neill: The Department has spent the following on stationery with its preferred supplier over this period. The Department does not hold a breakdown of figures for 2007-08 so the following figure represents full year spend.

	£
2007-08	438,473
2008-09	501,255
2009-10	442,660
2010 (April and May)	56,585

Departmental Training

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location, *(c)* number of attendees and *(d)* cost to the public purse was for each (i) away day and (ii) team-building activity organised for staff in his Department between June 2007 and May 2010. [68334]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce the next round of local enterprise zones. [68781]

Greg Clark: The closing date for the receipt of bids was 30 June 2011 and the successful bids were announced on 17 August 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1967595

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Conditions of Employment

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects on physical requirements of firefighters of setting the retirement age at 60; and if he will make a statement. [68924]

Robert Neill: In 2002, under the last Administration, the Independent Review of the Fire Service found that the job of a firefighter does not carry any greater risk than many other occupations. In 2007, the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme was introduced with a normal pension age of 60. In March 2011, Lord Hutton's review into public sector pensions recommended that, in recognising the unique nature of their work, the Government should consider setting a new normal pension age of 60 across the uniformed services.

The Government have accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation with public sector workers, trades unions and others. Following the written ministerial statement on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 92-94WS, given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), scheme level discussions have begun to deliver initial proposals for reformed schemes by the end of October 2011. Lord Hutton's recommendations will also inform these scheme level discussions, which will include consideration of the normal pension age for firefighters.

Fire Services: Expenditure

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of each control centre constructed under the FiReControl project in the last six months; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each centre in the next 12 months. [63801]

Robert Neill: For the current running costs of all the control centres, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 362-63W. In that response I highlight the National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, HC 1272, on "The Failure of the FiReControl project".

The National Audit Office report states on the empty buildings: "The Department's failure to manage the project as a whole has resulted in the creation of empty regional control centres. The nine regional control centres were purpose-built to house the new computerised equipment and were designed specifically for that purpose. The Department's decision to prioritise the procurement of the centres over the IT system at an early stage meant that the first centres were completed in June 2007, just three months after the IT contract had been awarded" (p.8).

The total running costs incurred at each control centre building for the last six months (December 2010 to May 2011) and the most recent estimate of running costs (including rent, facilities management, utilities, rates, etc.) for the following 12 months (June 2011 to May 2012) are shown in the following table.

£

Control centre building	*Cost incurred in last six months*[1]	*Estimated running cost in the next 12 months*[1]
London	1,573,475	2,841,488
South East	997,259	1,970,399
South West	902.321	1,749,403
East of England	974,602	1,869,992
East Midlands	915,828	1,734,402
West Midlands	969,981	1,902,885
Yorkshire and Humberside	890,915	1,748,701
North East	879,971	1,711,769
North West	894,026	1,694,900

[1] All costs exclude VAT.

The hon. Member will note that the estimated running cost for the London control centre over the next 12 months is reduced compared to the current monthly cost given in the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington. This is because the London Fire Brigade expects to move into the building at the end of this year and will take over the running costs except for the rent during this period. The Department has also taken steps to reduce facilities management costs by 25 per cent through renegotiating the contract and utilities costs by 35 per cent through reduced usage in all the buildings.

Our aim is to achieve the best possible value for money for the taxpayer from these buildings. Our preference is for fire and rescue services to use the centres, as they are highly resilient and built for this purpose. We have already reached agreement with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to take over the control centre in Merton. The London Fire Brigade intends to move in later this year and will take over the running costs at that point. Those fire and rescue services hoping to move into the buildings are not expected to begin contributing to the rent during the period in question. Where we cannot reach agreement for fire and rescue services to move in, we are actively seeking suitable tenants for them. This will further reduce costs.

This Government took decisive action and closed down the costly FiReControl project when it became clear that it could not be delivered to an acceptable timeframe. I refer the hon. Member to the National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, HC 1272, on "The Failure of the FiReControl project" and the written ministerial statement on the future of fire and rescue control services made to the House on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 82-83WS.

Fire Services: Manpower

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of front-line jobs in fire services which are expected to be lost in addition to those already announced. [68922]

Robert Neill: The Department has not made such an estimate. It is for individual fire and rescue authorities to determine appropriate levels of emergency cover, taking account of analysis of risk locally, as part of integrated risk management planning.

I also refer the hon. Member to my letter to him of 6 December 2010, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, which outlines how fire and rescue authorities can make sensible savings without impacting on the quality or breadth of services offered to their communities.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* assets and *(b)* long-term liabilities are of the (i) Firefighters' Pension Scheme and (ii) New Firefighters' Pension Scheme; [68495]

(2) what his policy is on firefighters paying a greater contribution to their pension scheme. [68496]

Robert Neill: As unfunded schemes, neither the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 nor the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 have any assets. The 2007 actuarial valuation of the two fire pension schemes found that the total liability for all accrued benefits was £13.8 billion as at 31 March 2007. Of this, current members of the Firefighters Pension Scheme 1992 accounted for £6.4 billion and pensions in payment for former members accounted for £6.9 billion. The remainder applied to members with deferred benefits, pensions in payment for dependents. The actuarial liability of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 was valued at £0.0 billion in 2007.

The Department will shortly be issuing statutory consultation proposals setting out the Department's approach to increased employee contribution increases with effect from April 2012.

Gifts and Endowments

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 449W, on gifts and endowments, *(a)* what the name is of each Minister who received each gift, *(b)* who donated each gift and *(c)* what wines and spirits were received. [61034]

Robert Neill: Based on the records available, information on gifts valued below £140 recorded by the Department as having been received in 2009-10 is as follows. Where recorded, this also includes details of donors.

John Denham

Mug from Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team

Red wine from ambassador of Qatar (retained by the Department for use at official functions)

Sadiq Khan

Decorative plaques received on ministerial visit to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Shahid Malik

Calendar

Fine Bone China Plate

Framed Photograph

Lacquerware box

Photo Frame

Stationery

Wooden Plate

Rosie Winterton

Book from Azerbaijan Delegation

Cognac from Azerbaijan Delegation

Food hamper from Regional Food Group for Yorkshire and Humber

Replica Miner's Lamp given on a visit to the National Coal Mining Museum for England*

Trinket box.*

The list includes two additional items (marked with an asterisk) to the list given in my answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 449W, which were subsequently identified in a further search of departmental records.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Housing Ombudsman using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [68895]

Robert Neill: No such transactions have taken place as the Independent Housing Ombudsman Ltd does not use the Government Procurement Card.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Thurrock Gateway Development Corporation using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [68897]

Robert Neill: A table providing a breakdown of expenditure by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation using Government Procurement Cards for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been placed in the Library of the House. This includes *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier. We do not hold details of *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transactions. Each transaction does have an expenditure type which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [68898]

Andrew Stunell: No such transactions have taken place as West Northamptonshire Development Corporation does not use the Government Procurement Card.

Homelessness: Expenditure

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1000W, on homelessness: social rented housing, how much and what proportion of the figure given in the answer for local authority prevention or relief activities in 2009-10 related to activities under section 192(3) of the Housing Act 1996. [67661]

Grant Shapps: The figures provided in the previous answer related to all prevention and relief activities. It is not possible to break down the number of those activities that were carried out under section 192(3) of the Housing Act 1996 from the data the Department holds.

Homelessness: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the likely number of homeless people in Liverpool, Walton constituency in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013 and *(c)* 2014. [67728]

Grant Shapps: This Department has not made forecasts for future levels of homelessness.

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Figures are provided at local authority level in the table at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1918724.xls

Figures are not collected at constituency level.

Figures are also collected on rough sleeping. The Government have introduced a new more accurate way of evaluating rough sleeping levels in England. Previously, only local authorities where there was a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to provide a count. All areas across England now provide counts or robust estimates giving a clear national picture. Latest statistics show 1,768 rough sleepers in England on any one night in autumn 2010.

Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the DCLG website and are given by local authority in the table 2 at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1845849.xls

Figures are not collected at constituency level.

This Government are committed to tackling rough sleeping and preventing homelessness. We have maintained the level of Homelessness Grant, with £400 million for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next four years. A cross-departmental ministerial working group has been set up to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people.

Homelessness: Young People

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many young people aged between 16 and 18 became homeless in each of the last five years; and what proportion of these young people were care leavers. [68228]

Grant Shapps: Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Information is collected on the age of households accepted as being homeless but the age bands are '16-24', '25-44', '45-59', '60-64', '65-74' and '75 and over'. Figures are published in table 11 of the release, found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1918669.xls

Information is not collected on whether members of households accepted as homeless were formally in care.

Breakdowns are not available for other types of homelessness, eg rough sleeping.

This Government are committed to tackling rough sleeping and preventing homelessness. We have maintained the level of Homelessness Grant, with £400 million for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next four years. A cross-departmental Ministerial Working Group has been set up to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people.

Land Use

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* representatives of the house building industry and *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading on the practice of land banking by private housing developers. [69191]

Andrew Stunell: The Office of Fair Trading market study, Homebuilding in the UK (2008) did not find "any evidence that housebuilders have the ability to anti-competitively hoard land or own a large amount of land with planning permission on which they have not started to build."

The Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), announced on 8 June that the Government are planning to release enough public land to build as many as 100,000 new homes by 2015. By this autumn Government Departments with significant land holdings will publish plans to release land to housebuilders.

Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on my Department's website. Ministers discuss a wide range of issues.

Local Government Finance

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the funding of *(a)* fire and police services and *(b)* other risk-based services within his proposed changes to local government funding. [68052]

Robert Neill: The Government published 'Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rate Retention' on 18 July 2011 for consultation. This contains proposals for the future funding of non-billing authorities, including fire and police authorities. A technical paper which set out further details for non-billing authorities was published in August.

Local Government: Manpower

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff were employed by local authorities in England in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [69162]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold records of the number of people employed by local authorities. The Office for National Statistics publishes local government employment statistics and these show that staff headcount employed by local authorities in England were:

(a) 2008-09 (Quarter 2, 2008) was 2,436,000

(b) 2009-10 (Quarter 2, 2009) was 2,431,000

Figures for 2010-11 have not yet been published.

Non-domestic Rates

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have granted hardship relief to local businesses in the last four years; and for how long a period in each case. [67693]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The following list gives details of those local authorities in England that reported they granted hardship relief in the period 2006-07 to 2009-10:

Ashford
Aylesbury Vale
Babergh
Barking and Dagenham
Barnsley
Basingstoke and Deane
Bassetlaw

Bedford[1]
Bedford UA[2]
Berwick-upon-Tweed[1]
Birmingham
Blyth Valley[1]
Bolsover
Bolton
Boston
Bradford
Breckland
Brent
Bridgnorth[1]
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Broadland
Broxbourne
Bury
Camden
Cannock Chase
Canterbury
Caradon[1]
Carlisle
Castle Morpeth[1]
Central Bedfordshire UA[2]
Charnwood
Cheltenham
Cheshire East UA[2]
Chester[1]
Christchurch
City of London
Copeland
Cornwall UA[2]
Crewe and Nantwich[1]
Dacorum
Daventry
Derby UA
Derwentside[1]
Dover
Durham City[1]
Durham UA[2]
Easington[1]
East Cambridgeshire
East Devon
East Hampshire
East Lindsey
East Riding of Yorkshire UA
East Staffordshire
Eastbourne
Eastleigh
Ellesmere Port and Neston[1]
Exeter
Fenland
Forest Heath
Forest of Dean
Fylde
Gedling
Gloucester
Greenwich
Guildford
Hackney
Hambleton
Harborough
Harrogate
Hastings
High Peak
Hillingdon
Hinckley and Bosworth
Horsham
Hounslow
Huntingdonshire
Ipswich
Kennet[1]
Kensington and Chelsea
Kerrier[1]
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Kirklees
Knowsley
Leeds
Leicester UA
Lewes
Lewisham
Liverpool
Luton UA
Macclesfield[1]
Manchester
Mansfield
Medway UA
Mendip
Mid Bedfordshire[1]
Mid Suffolk
Mid Sussex
Middlesbrough UA
Milton Keynes UA
Newark and Sherwood
Newcastle upon Tyne
North Cornwall[1]
North Dorset
North East Derbyshire
North East Lincolnshire UA
North Lincolnshire UA
North Tyneside
North Warwickshire
Northumberland UA[2]
Norwich
Oldham
Plymouth UA
Preston
Purbeck
Redcar and Cleveland UA
Restormel[1]
Richmondshire
Rother
Rotherham
Rushcliffe
Rushmoor
Ryedale
Salford
Salisbury[1]

Sandwell
Scarborough
Sedgemoor
Selby
Sevenoaks
Sheffield
Shepway
Shrewsbury and Atcham[1]
Shropshire UA[2]
Slough UA
South Bedfordshire[1]
South Cambridgeshire
South Derbyshire
South Gloucestershire UA
South Holland
South Lakeland
South Norfolk
South Northamptonshire
South Oxfordshire
South Ribble
South Somerset
South Staffordshire
Southwark
St Albans
St Edmundsbury
Stafford
Stevenage
Stoke-on-Trent UA
Stratford-on-Avon
Stroud
Suffolk Coastal
Sutton
Tameside
Tamworth
Tandridge
Teignbridge
Tendring
Test Valley
Tewkesbury
Thanet
Torridge
Tower Hamlets
Tynedale[1]
Vale Royal[1]
Wandsworth
Warrington UA
Waveney
Wealden
West Berkshire UA
West Devon
West Dorset
West Lindsey
West Somerset
West Wiltshire[1]
Westminster
Weymouth and Portland
Wigan
Wiltshire UA[2]
Winchester
Windsor and Maidenhead UA
Wirral
Woking
Wokingham UA
Wolverhampton
Worcester
Wychavon
Wycombe
Wyre Forest.

[1] These authorities were in existence in 2006-07 to 2008-09 only and ceased to exist from 1 April 2009 due to local government reorganisation.

[2] These are unitary authorities that came into existence on 1 April 2009.

The figures used to produce this list are taken from the annual audited national non-domestic rates (NNDR3) returns submitted by all billing authorities in England and are net i.e. they are the amount of hardship relief granted both in respect of the current year and/or previous years less any repayment of hardship relief incorrectly made in respect of previous years.

Under our plans for local retention of business rates, rate relief will continue to be supported, meaning no adverse change to such groups as charities, amateur sports clubs, voluntary groups, those in hardship, and eligible rural or small firms.

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was due to be collected in uniform business rates in each billing authority area in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2010-11. [68465]

Robert Neill: Details of the amount of national non-domestic rates that was due to be collected in each billing authority area in England in 2006-07 and 2010-11 are published in statistical releases on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates/

Data for 2006-07 can be found in column 0 of table 4 of the statistics release "Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2006-07" and data for 2010-11 can be found in column 0 of table 7 of the statistics release "Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2010-11".

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return of Council tax and Non-domestic rates (QRC4) forms that are returned annually by all billing authorities in England.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the impact on speculative property development of the decision to reduce the empty property rates threshold for commercial properties. [68169]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 8 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 178W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer).

Overcrowding

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to revise the definition of overcrowding for the purposes of the Housing Act 1985. [64019]

Andrew Stunell: The reforms to social housing allocations, homelessness and tenure which are being taken forward in the Localism Bill will make it much easier for social landlords to manage their stock to reduce overcrowding.

We have no plans currently to change the statutory overcrowding standard. We will consult on new statutory allocations guidance later this year.

Planning

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what standards will be applied to *(a)* transport statements, *(b)* transport assessments and *(c)* travel plans under draft version 4 of the National Planning Policy Framework. [67766]

Robert Neill: The National Planning Policy Framework consultation, which includes a draft impact assessment, was launched on 25 July. Copies of all documents are in the Library of the House.

Planning Permission: Urban Areas

Pamela Nash: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to support high streets through the planning system. [69932]

Greg Clark: Although it is a devolved matter for the hon. Member's constituents, the Government are committed to supporting high streets through the 'Town Centre First' policy which identifies town centres as the preferred location for retail developments.

Private Rented Housing

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to develop *(a)* a national strategy and *(b)* regional strategies for access to affordable family housing in the private rental sector; and if he will make a statement. [68036]

Grant Shapps: The Government have been working to encourage a thriving private rented sector which offers affordability and choice to those seeking a home. We have made it clear that local authorities should use their existing powers to stamp out the small minority of poor practice in the sector by rogue landlords. However, regulation must be proportionate: excessive regulation on the whole of the private rented sector would harm tenants' interests by reducing the choice of accommodation and force up rents.

We are taking active steps to encourage growth and investment in the private rented sector, through the changes to stamp duty land tax on bulk purchases which the Government announced in the 2011 Budget, and through the commitment to look again at the rules on real estate investment trusts in time for next year's Budget.

The Government are decentralising power from central Government and unelected regional government to elected local government. The New Homes Bonus will reward councils for the construction of additional housing, and the abolition of Whitehall density targets will allow councils to plan for more family homes.

Private Rented Housing: Standards

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the quality of accommodation in the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [69942]

Andrew Stunell: The most recent report on English Housing Survey, which is commissioned by my Department, shows continuing improvement in the condition of the private rented sector. At a time when the sector is growing, the proportion of non-decent properties has reduced from 47% in 2006 to 41% in 2009.

Regional Planning and Development

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account housing allocations in local development frameworks will take of windfall developments. [68972]

Robert Neill: Current national policy on housing, set out in Planning Policy Statement 3, is clear that allowances for windfall sites should not be included in the first 10 years of housing supply unless the council can provide robust evidence of genuine local circumstances that prevent planned sites from being identified.

Through the abolition of Regional Strategies via the Localism Bill, local authorities will have greater local discretion on the setting of their housing allocations.

Social Rented Housing

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to issue guidelines to local authorities on the development of local tenancy strategies. [68683]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has no plans to issue formal guidance on tenancy strategies.

The Chartered Institute of Housing has published guidance on preparing tenancy strategies, which can be found at:

http://www.cih.org/practice/free-downloads/documents/TenancyStrategies-June2011.pdf

Social Rented Housing: Ex-servicemen

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to give greater priority to military veterans on waiting lists for social housing. [68632]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to ensuring that existing and former members of the armed forces are not disadvantaged in their access to social housing. Current social housing allocations guidance already advises local authorities to give 'additional preference' (high priority) to service personnel who have been seriously injured or disabled in action. An option we are considering is to change the law so that councils in England would be required to give 'additional preference' for social housing to all former service personnel who have an urgent housing need. Any change to the law would follow a full public consultation.

In addition, all low-cost home ownership schemes, including FirstBuy, will now routinely place current and former members of the armed forces at the top of their priority lists.

Social Rented Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals who were not British citizens were allocated social housing under the choice-based lettings system by Peterborough city council in each year since 2001; what proportion this represented of all such allocations in each year; and if he will make a statement. [68312]

Andrew Stunell: Information about social lettings is collected through the Continuous Recording of Lettings and Sales (CORE). The question on nationality was first introduced in 2006-07.

The following table provides the number and proportion of all choice-based lettings made to non-UK nationals to properties situated within Peterborough city council's boundary since 2006-07.

It is not possible to confirm whether all of these were allocated via Peterborough city council's choice-based lettings system.

Choice-based lettings to non-UK nationals in Peterborough, 2006-07 to 2009-10

	Number of choice-based lettings to non-UK nationals in Peterborough	*Proportion of all choice-based lettings to non-UK nationals in Peterborough (percentage)*
2006-07	177	15
2007-08	190	14
2008-09	234	16
2009-10	255	16

Source:
CORE lettings data (general needs and supported housing)

Travellers: Planning Permission

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many temporary permissions for Gypsy and Traveller sites have been granted by the Planning Inspectorate since 1997; and how many such sites have been removed following the expiry of temporary permissions. [67689]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Data held by the Planning Inspectorate do not specifically categorise appeals into those involving temporary permissions. However they have been able to identify planning appeals shown in the following table from key word searches of the development description. Such word searches may not have found all appeals that the Planning Inspectorate has handled. The data do not go back beyond April 2000. The data in the table are therefore for nine months in 2000 and full years for the remainder.

	Number of appeals for temporary permissions allowed
2000	2
2001	0
2002	1
2003	1
2004	0
2005	0
2006	2
2007	1
2008	2
2009	5
2010	6

Local planning authorities are responsible for monitoring temporary permissions and the Planning Inspectorate does not hold data on removal of sites once temporary permission expires.

The Government are currently revising planning policy on Traveller sites, to give local councils more discretion, to increase protection for the green belt and open countryside, and to ensure fair play for all.

SCOTLAND

Employment

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* Scottish Ministers on (i) the rise in the number of female jobseeker's allowance claimants in July 2011 and (ii) other trends in July 2011's labour market statistics relating to Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [68198]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about the number of people in Scotland claiming jobseekers allowance and trends in labour market statistics. When I met the Cabinet Secretary for Employment, Finance and Sustainable Growth in July we discussed youth unemployment in Scotland.

Phone Hacking Inquiry

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on Scottish Government co-operation with the judicial inquiry into phone hacking and allegations of police corruption. [68199]

Michael Moore: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport corresponded with the First Minister on 17 and 18 July regarding the terms of reference for the Lord Justice Leveson Inquiry. The Lord Justice Leveson has confirmed that he is happy to discuss any issues regarding the inquiry directly with the First Minister.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67569]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office has not spent any money on Sky TV subscriptions since May 2010.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68949]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available before 12 April 2010 following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions. Since that date we have appointed no new members of the SCS. We have not entered into any consultancy agreements with any of these firms. One individual from one of the organisations named has provided advice on a personal, unpaid basis.

Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68752]

Mr Paterson: During June 2011 my Department received 10 letters from hon. Members.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many staff of the National Audit Office hold *(a)* a Government Procurement Card and *(b)* other corporate charge cards. [68888]

Mr Leigh: The National Audit Office (NAO) keeps under constant review the business need for individuals to have Government procurement cards. Following a review in July it has reduced the number of cardholders from 26 to 15. The NAO does not use other corporate charge cards.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Health Services

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund *(a)* has been spent on and *(b)* is to be used to pay health worker salaries in that country. [64863]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1377W.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps his Department plans to take to support the Government of Afghanistan to *(a)* fill its national health worker gap and *(b)* ensure that health workers are supported to work in the parts of that country in greatest need. [64864]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to support the Government of Afghanistan in delivering *(a)* health care and *(b)* other basic services. [64865]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 160W.

Afghanistan: Maternity Services

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce *(a)* maternal, *(b)* newborn and *(c)* child mortality rates in Afghanistan. [64866]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 161W.

Africa: Agriculture

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the potential returns from investment in smallholder agriculture in Africa as a means of stimulating rural development and enabling the very poorest farmers to lift themselves out of poverty. [68025]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government recognises the importance of investing in smallholder agriculture and is a strong supporter of Africa's own initiative, the "Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme" (CAADP). CAADP's aim is to boost agricultural growth and productivity in order to reduce poverty and hunger. CAADP was established by the Africa Union in 2003 and its member states agreed to invest 10% of their national budgets in an effort to raise agricultural productivity growth to 6% per year. The UK has contributed to the establishment of the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System:

www.resakss.org

which monitors and assesses progress against these targets. In 2009, seven countries had met the 10% investment target and 17 have met or exceeded the 6% productivity target.

Africa: Education

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to increase the number of girls going to school in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [67968]

Mr Duncan: The Government have put the provision of more opportunities for girls to participate in education at the heart of our aid programme. Our aim over the next four years is to support at least 9 million young people in primary schools and 2 million young people at secondary level. 5.4 million of the primary school students and 550,000 of the secondary school students will be in Africa. We anticipate that at least 50% of these young people will be girls.

In our 14 focus countries in Africa that are prioritising education as a result of our Bilateral Aid Review, we are exploring a number of different strategies' for addressing the high dropout of girls in primary education and supporting the transition to secondary school.

We are working with a wide range of partners who share our concern to promote girls' education. Our partnership with the Nike Foundation's 'Girl Hub' focuses on meeting the educational needs of adolescent girls, working in particular in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Rwanda.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67567]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any subscriptions to Sky TV for any of its offices.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67915]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the 12 months 13 July 2010-11 I flew, on official business, economy class 19 times and by budget airline twice.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1113W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation it is installing on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67934]

Mr Duncan: The biomass boiler has not yet been procured. It will be procured using best procurement practice and in accordance with appropriate UK procurement rules and legislation in order to achieve value for money.

Staff Appraisal

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department were dismissed for under-performance as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system in each of the last three years. [64683]

Mr O'Brien: No officials in the Department for International Development have been dismissed as a result of the procedures arising from his Department's staff appraisal system, in each of the last three years.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67582]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is unable to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs. My Ministers and I regularly meet MPs of all parties to discuss DFID-related issues on which they have a concern or interest.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the policy of his Department is on the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. [67655]

Mr Duncan: The UK has not contributed to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. Department for International Development Ministers are still considering whether providing funds for this programme would represent value for money and make a significant, additional contribution to our support for food and nutritional security in developing countries.

Developing Countries: Education

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he is giving to girls in developing countries to ensure that they have the same level of access to education as boys. [68021]

Mr O'Brien: The Government are placing girls and women at the centre of our aid programme. All Department for International Development (DFID) education programmes will have a focus on girls and young women. We are working with existing and new development partners to combine general support to education systems with targeted interventions to address girls' drop-out rates and support their transition to lower secondary schooling. Following a comprehensive review of all UK aid programmes the Government plans to support at least 9 million children in primary school, over half of whom will be girls, and 2 million children in secondary school by 2014-15.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's development support on education *(a)* in Sierra Leone, *(b)* of girls in that country and *(c)* in other developing countries. [68100]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Education is the key to beating poverty and one of the best investments we can make for global prosperity and our common future. Sierra Leone is still struggling to rebuild its education system after a brutal 10-year civil war and the UK will be significantly expanding its education programme over the next four years. Since the end of the war, the UK has helped the Government of Sierra Leone more than double the number of children in primary school to 1.4 million, helped train 3,100 teachers and provided support for nationwide school monitoring and supervision.

The Department for International Development (DFID) places girls and women at the centre of its work. In Sierra Leone, DFID is focusing on, among other things: teacher training and management; improving the quality of education; and access for girls. Through support to the Government of Sierra Leone's budget, the UK has contributed to the rapid expansion in the number of girls receiving a primary education, from 585,000 in 2004 to 698,000 in 2010.

By 2014-15 we will be supporting at least 11 million children in school, of whom 250,000 will be in Sierra Leone.

Developing Countries: Females

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the opportunities to support the empowerment of women through his Department's Private Sector Department. [67849]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID) vision for girls and women has economic empowerment as a central pillar. DFID's Private Sector Department is working with, on and through the private sector to help women gain direct access to, and control over, economic assets, serving in turn to boost their status in communities and households. The Private Sector Department is developing programmes to support women by improving employment opportunities and increasing their access to financial and basic services.

Across DFID, we plan to improve access to financial services for over 18 million women, help 2.3 million women attain employment, and secure land rights for 4.5 million women.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the contribution of the CDC business plan to addressing gender disparities in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [67850]

Mr Duncan: The Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) recognises the importance of addressing gender disparity in terms of employment, training and opportunities for women in the developing world.

Under its new high-level business plan, CDC capital will be focused on the poorest countries and parts of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia where it will help support and create better and more equal opportunities for women through, for example, the provision of microfinance, where 70% of borrowers are typically women.

CDC provides its fund managers with comprehensive guidance on environmental, social and governance issues. The guidance provides specific detail to managers on how to improve investee company performance on gender, including advice on pay, maternity and paternity leave, health matters, harassment and safety of women employees and appointing women to company boards.

Ethiopia: Health Services

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many additional *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* midwives and *(d)* other health workers his Department estimates will be required in Ethiopia to achieve his Department's target to increase the number of births delivered with the help of nurses, midwives or doctors to 500,000 by 2015. [64719]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is scaling up UK support for health service delivery in Ethiopia. One of the targets for this support is to ensure that 500,000 additional births are delivered by a skilled birth attendant by 2015.

DFID plans to support the delivery of the Government of Ethiopia's five year health sector programme to achieve this target. The Government of Ethiopia estimate the following projected need for additional health workers across Ethiopia in 2015.

	Baseline (2010)	*Projected need (2015)*	*Additional health workers needed*
(a) Doctors (all specialists and general practitioners)	2,152	16,024	13,872
(b) Nurses	20,109	41,009	20,900
(c) Midwives	1,379	8,635	7,256
(d) Health officers	3,760	6,345	2,585

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that health workers are deployed to the parts of Ethiopia identified as being in greatest need. [64721]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing support for health service delivery across Ethiopia. At the district level, this includes financing for the salary costs of government health workers. To 2015, the UK plans to support almost 3,000 community level Health Extension Workers who are providing a package of preventative and basic curative services to more than 7 million people in rural communities across the country.

Despite these efforts, some parts of Ethiopia are lagging behind others in terms of access to health services. To respond to this, DFID is currently designing a 'Peace and Development Programme' (PDP) focusing initially in the Somali Region of Ethiopia which has the lowest health indicators in the country. PDP will include a service delivery component focussed on expanding people's access to health workers and services.

Liberia: Health Services

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of health workers required in Liberia to achieve the objectives of its operational plan in respect of reducing *(a)* maternal and *(b)* infant mortality rates by 2013; and how many (i) doctors, (ii) nurses, (iii) midwives and (iv) other health workers his Department plans to support to meet these objectives. [64861]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 11 July 2011, *Official Report* columns 163-4W.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that health workers are deployed to the parts of Liberia in greatest need. [64862]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 163-4W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar).

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports on post-conflict planning in Libya have been produced by the Stabilisation Unit. [65073]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Stabilisation Unit has not itself produced any report as such on post-conflict planning in Libya. It facilitated the deployment of an International Stabilisation Response Team (ISRT) to eastern Libya, on behalf of the Secretary of State for International Development. The International Stabilisation Response Team was composed of experts from the UK, US, Italy, Denmark, Canada, Australia and Turkey. The report they produced is intended to support Libyan-led stabilisation planning, and its analysis has informed the ongoing planning in Whitehall Departments as well as the National Transitional Council (NTC) and UN experts engaged in work on this.

Maldives: Overseas Aid

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help the Government of the Maldives to promote economic growth in that country. [67496]

Mr Duncan: As a middle-income country without large numbers of people living on less than a dollar a day/the Maldives does not receive development aid directly from the UK. The UK does however support the Maldives indirectly through our contribution to multilateral partners such as the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank including with climate change funds.

The Secretary of State recently wrote to UK Trade and Investment encouraging them to do more to help the Maldivian Government as a Commonwealth country working hard to make democracy function after decades of dictatorship.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much money was contributed to the Maldives from his Department's budget in 2010-11; and how much he plans to contribute to the Maldives in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [67741]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has now reduced its bilateral focus to 27 countries with huge burdens of poverty, of which the Maldives is not one. The Maldives has now graduated to middle income status and has achieved five out of the eight Millennium Development Goals ahead of the 2015 deadline.

The UK does however support the Maldives through the British high commission in Colombo and indirectly through our contribution to multilateral partners such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The Maldives is also a pilot country in the Climate Investment Funds Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme, which the UK supports, and can access the Special Climate Change Fund and Adaption Fund (which recently approved a $10 million freshwater supply project in the Maldives). The UK supports both these funds.

Maputo Declaration

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations his Department has made to African governments on implementation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Maputo Declaration. [67853]

Mr O'Brien: Britain routinely discusses factors affecting economic growth and food security with partner governments in Africa. UK Government officials also participate in twice yearly meetings of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme. We use these meetings, and our country level work, to review the programme with the African Union and member states and urge progress towards the Maputo productivity and expenditure targets.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role and responsibilities he has in relation to the National Security Council; and what recent contribution he has made to its work. [67415]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I am a member of the National Security Council, which meets regularly, in some cases several times a week. I contribute fully to the consideration of the wide-ranging domestic and international security questions tackled by the National Security Council.

Overseas Aid

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of his Department's systematic reviews into the effectiveness of its 10 key policy interventions. [65032]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The aim of Department for International Development (DFID) funded systematic reviews is to identify the effectiveness of key policy interventions of interest to DFID. Systematic reviews enable evidence to be neutrally mapped out, quality assured and synthesised, in order to inform policy and practice decisions, and increase value for money by basing decisions on a rigorous understanding of what works.

By the end of March 2011, the 10 systematic reviews had been completed and were available on the Department for International Development's Research for Development website at a cost of £329,849. The groups that carried out the reviews were supported and peer reviewed by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation and the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre.

Sierra Leone: Education

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he is providing to development in Sierra Leone in 2011-12; and how much support has been allocated to *(a)* education and *(b)* education of girls in that country. [68022]

Mr O'Brien: In 2011-12, UK aid will support improved governance, economic growth and natural resource management and the delivery of better services, such as education, health care, security and justice across Sierra Leone. This support will enable 20,000 more births to be attended by trained health personnel, provide access to sanitation to nearly 400,000 people and support 168,000 children in primary and junior secondary school, of which 82,000 are girls. In order to achieve this £58 million has been allocated for development in Sierra Leone, of which £5 million is for education.

While the UK's current education programme supports the general provision of education, new UK projects will begin in late 2011-12 and 2012-13 with specific activities targeting girls. These include piloting the provision of food packages to families on condition that their daughters attend school, teacher training and supervision and providing separate sanitation facilities at schools.

Sierra Leone: Health Services

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what objectives he has set for his Department's support for health sector salaries in Sierra Leone. [64802]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1383-4W.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department plans to ensure that health workers are deployed to the parts of Sierra Leone in greatest need. [64803]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1384W.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many additional health workers his Department estimates will be required in Sierra Leone to achieve the targets in his Department's operational plan for *(a)* reducing maternal mortality rates and *(b)* increasing the proportion of births delivered by skilled health personnel by 2015; and how many (i) doctors, (ii) nurses, (iii) midwives and (iv) other health workers his Department plans to provide support to meet these targets. [64804]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) on 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1384W.

South Sudan: Poverty

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to *(a)* poverty reduction and *(b)* education programmes in South Sudan. [68274]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID) four-year operational plan for South Sudan was published on 28 July 2011. DFID is aiming for ambitious results including: one million people getting enough food to eat; increased private sector investment and trade by reducing cross-border transport costs by up to 15%; 240,000 more children completing primary school; and 12 million textbooks printed and distributed to almost two million children.

A total budget allocation of £375 million has been approved for South Sudan over the current AF period. In 2011-12 alone we are looking to spend nearly £90 million.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing for the creation of new jobs in the agriculture sector in sub-Saharan Africa. [67654]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development is supporting the agricultural sector in countries such as Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and by doing so is creating employment opportunities. For example, in Somalia the UK's support to the European Commission and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation is expected to create 45,000 agricultural and trade-related jobs by 2015, many of which will be taken up by women.

Britain also supports the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) which was established in 2008 and has already supported a million farmers through the provision of grants or interest free loans to commercial enterprises to innovate and find profitable ways of improving market access for small farmers. In south Sudan, AECF has supported SAB Miller to work with small-holder farmers to grow cassava for beer production. This will improve market opportunities for around 2,000 farmers and create much needed employment in Africa's newest country. In Zimbabwe, AECF support is expected to create around 1,400 agriculture-related jobs by 2015.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Sanitation

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist in the provision of clean water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa. [68306]

Mr Duncan: As set out in "UK Aid: Changing lives, delivering results" the UK Government aim to give 15 million people access to clean drinking water; improve access to sanitation for 25 million people; and improve hygiene for 15 million people.

The majority of our effort will be in Africa, which is where the needs are greatest and progress is in danger of stagnating. Subject to the preparation of robust business cases that demonstrate value for money, we plan to have five new major bilateral programmes on water and sanitation in Africa (Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe). We will also continue to support existing programmes in four countries that have among the largest numbers of people without access to water and sanitation in Africa (Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Sierra Leone).

Sustainable Development: International Co-operation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will promote international systems for payment for ecosystem services as part of preparatory discussions for the Rio 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development. [67382]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is currently working on options for the Rio conference. The agenda item at the conference on the "green economy" offers a key opportunity to deepen global understanding of the complex interactions between natural resources, climate change and poverty eradication through a strong economic growth lens, and to act on this understanding.

We expect to support options for the conference that command the support of a wide range of countries and deliver real progress and benefits to developing countries. Promotion of international systems for payment for ecosystem services will be considered in this context.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will bring forward proposals to reform the governance of the World Bank to give greater weight to sustainability issues as part of the preparatory process for the Rio 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development. [67383]

Mr O'Brien: The UK's Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) highlighted areas where the World Bank is performing well and others where further reform is needed. These reforms will underpin an improvement in the bank's performance and overall effectiveness. A key area identified for reform is the need for the bank to step up its efforts to further integrate climate change and environmental sustainability across all its operations. We are already working with the bank and using a range of platforms to advance this agenda, in particular, our own seat on the bank's board and other focused technical level discussions.

The forthcoming Rio 2012 conference offers a further opportunity to deepen global understanding of the reasons why such integration is necessary and to act on this understanding, through all multilateral and bilateral institutions, governments, civil society and the private sector. The UK expects to support options for the conference that command the support of a wide range of countries and deliver real progress and benefits to developing countries. Any outcomes relating to the World Bank's work will be considered in this context.

WALES

Broadcasting Programmes: Welsh Language

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has met *(a)* Welsh Ministers and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to discuss the future of Welsh language broadcasting, including the devolution functions; and if she will make a statement. [68693]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales and I have regular meetings with the First Minister and with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the right hon. Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), on a range of issues including Welsh language broadcasting.

We remain committed to a strong and independent Welsh language TV service and believe that arrangements set out in the spending review last year will deliver a secure future for S4C. We therefore have no plans to devolve broadcasting matters.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has met *(a)* Welsh Ministers and *(b)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department regarding the scrutiny of and support required by police commissioners in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [68695]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Wales and I have met Welsh Government Ministers to discuss Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales.

We have also met with Home Office Ministers and are continuing to work constructively with them to ensure that Police and Crime Commissioners are introduced effectively in Wales.

We have discussed many aspects of the policy including scrutiny and support. The Government remains fully committed to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners policy. Preparatory work has commenced to ensure that we get implementation right in Wales.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish data on road transport emissions in 2010. [68615]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will publish national statistics on UK emissions of five major air quality pollutants for 2010 in December. The underlying data published at the same time will provide emissions for different source sectors, including road transport. Data on emissions of other air quality pollutants for 2010 by source sector will be published in February 2012.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change will publish national statistics on UK greenhouse gas emissions for 2010 in early February 2012.

Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what training *(a)* farmers and *(b)* landowners will receive to ensure that cull operators are competent to (i) conduct a cull, (ii) minimise perturbation and (iii) do so with high regard to animal welfare. [68415]

Mr Paice: Operators would be required to demonstrate competence and attend an approved training course in order to obtain a licence to carry out culling. Training would comprise attendance at a Government-approved course which would cover anatomical and behavioural characteristics of badgers and how these differ from those of other species. Additional marksmanship training and assessment would be required for those who may have experience but no formal qualification. The licence conditions would also require all operators to adhere to Best Practice Guidance issued by DEFRA/Natural England.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Wildlife Crime Unit on the unlawful persecution of badgers since September 2010; and on what dates. [68989]

Mr Paice: I met with representatives from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), including the Wildlife Crime Unit, on 7 February 2011 to discuss the proposed badger control policy.

Animals: Disease Control

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on measures to prevent animal diseases entering the UK; and if she will make a statement. [68671]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers and officials have continual contact, through various means, with their EU counterparts in Animal Health and Welfare teams across Europe to discuss issues relating to the prevention of animal diseases entering the UK.

Most recently for example, amongst other issues, discussions have taken place in relation to rules surrounding the movement of pets and tapeworm controls.

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking *(a)* domestically and *(b)* at EU level to prevent the spread of disease (i) between and (ii) within wild animal, livestock and domesticated animal populations; and if she will make a statement. [68721]

Mr Paice: Control policies for dealing with exotic disease are developed and reviewed in close partnership with delivery agents, core groups of stakeholders and specialists. This ensures they are proportionate and evidence based within the framework of European and national law. Our contingency plans for dealing with outbreaks, if they occur, are regularly reviewed. Plans are regularly tested at local and national level, working closely with delivery partners and industry. We closely monitor outbreaks of high impact disease around the world and assess the risk to the UK. All of these measures rely very much on vigilance by farmers and animal keepers in identifying and reporting possible disease. Monitoring animals for signs of disease and following good biosecurity and hygiene practices are essential ways of reducing risk of disease in the first place and then preventing spread. Further information is available through DEFRA'S website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/

Badgers

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the names of the independent scientific experts who are to be asked to evaluate the two badger cull pilots. [68980]

Mr Paice: Further details regarding the independent panel of scientific experts that will evaluate the two pilot areas will be published alongside an announcement on the outcome of the current consultation.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria she has established for the *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* measurement of the effectiveness of the proposed badger cull pilots. [68982]

Mr Paice: Controlled shooting would be initially piloted in two areas, to test our assumptions about its effectiveness and humaneness. The evaluation of these pilots would be overseen by an independent panel of scientific experts. In parallel with the current consultation, we are drawing up details of how the pilots will be monitored and measured. These are likely to include monitoring humaneness via field observations and post mortems, and measuring the rate of badger removal. We expect the expert panel to advise on the exact specification of the monitoring work.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of badgers to be culled *(a)* per cull area and *(b)* in total in the next four years. [68983]

Mr Paice: We would expect around 1,000 to 1,500 badgers to be culled in a 150km^2 area over four years. This is based on data available from the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT). The total number of badgers culled will depend on the number of licences issued, and the size of area being culled. The number of licences issued will be limited to a maximum of 10 per year. Natural England will work with licence co-ordinators to assess the badger population in the control area and will set an upper limit on the percentage of the estimated badger population that may be killed each year in each control area.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the advice her Department has received from the Bern Convention Secretariat on the effect of a badger cull. [68984]

Mr Paice: The Bern Convention operates a "case file" system where, in response to a complaint received, it may raise a file for discussion at the Bern Standing Committee. The contracting party against whom the complaint has been made will need to satisfy the Committee of action taken to address the issue and the Committee may advise what that action should be. The Bern Standing Committee will not take action before a complaint has been received.

In 2010, the Bern Bureau considered a complaint from the Badger Trust about proposed badger control action in Wales. Having considered the reasons for the action proposed, the Bureau decided to take the case off the list of the complaints in stand-by.

We are not aware of a complaint having been passed to the Bern Secretariat on the current proposal (published for consultation on 19 July 2011) for badger control in England as part of a package of measures to tackle TB in cattle.

The UK is obliged under Article 9.2 of the Bern Convention to report every two years to the Bern Standing Committee any action taken in accordance with the derogations provided for under Article 9.1. Any control of badgers undertaken would need to be included in this report.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much a badger cull licence will cost. [68986]

Mr Paice: Under our current proposals applicants would not be charged for licences.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will publish the undertakings she has provided to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the funding of the policing costs associated with a badger cull; [68990]

(2) whether she has considered the provision of armed police to *(a)* protect those contracted to conduct the badger cull and *(b)* to police any public protests arising from culls; [68991]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of *(a)* policing the two badger cull pilots and *(b)* policing for all culling activity in the next four years. [68992]

Mr Paice: I am afraid we cannot share the Home Office advice but I can assure the hon. Lady that we are in discussion with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and with the Home Office during the consultation period regarding the police response and associated costs related to badger culling.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average monetary guarantee groups of farmers and landowners will be required to provide to her Department for the grant of a cull licence. [68993]

Mr Paice: Participants would be required to deposit sufficient funds to cover the total expected cost of the four-year cull (plus a contingency sum) before culling begins. The amount that would be required to be deposited would vary according to the size and nature of the culling operation in each area so it is not possible at this stage to provide a figure for the average sum. The Government would be able to access these funds in the event that it needed to intervene, and be able to levy additional funds from the original participants should that be necessary.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the likely reduction of bovine TB levels *(a)* in cull areas and *(b)* nationally after (i) four and (ii) nine years from the start of culling. [69043]

Mr Paice: The average effects seen during and post culling in the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) can be used to estimate the average net effect of culling over different sized areas over a nine year period (average five years' culling and four year post cull period). For example, the estimated average net benefit of culling over an area of 150 km^2 and the surrounding 2 km ring is a 16.0% reduction in confirmed TB incidence (95% confidence interval: 7.9% reduction to 24.2% reduction), equating to the prevention of 47 cattle herd breakdowns. What is seen in reality will vary greatly depending on local conditions including the size of the area, local background incidence of TB, the relative contribution that badgers make to the disease and the degree to which the culled area is surrounded by barriers or buffers to minimise the perturbation effect. Any estimates of overall beneficial effect are illustrative for a defined set of circumstances.

The Government are not proposing culling over the whole endemic area at the same time. We are proposing reductions of local badger populations in order to have a local impact in high incidence areas. A controlled reduction of badger populations in the worst affected areas can make an important contribution as part of a comprehensive and balanced package of measures to tackle TB in cattle.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what areas her Department plans to use as comparators to assess the local impacts of badger culls. [69044]

Mr Paice: The Government will take responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness, humaneness and impact of badger control, which will include monitoring of TB incidence and other epidemiological measures in cattle.

This is likely to include the examination of historical data and future incidence of TB in cattle within licensed areas and comparative areas where no badger control is taking place. Efforts will be made to match comparative areas to licensed areas on as many epidemiologically relevant characteristics as possible, e.g. geographical location and historical cattle TB incidence.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment her Department has made of the rate of survival of badgers injured but not killed in its previous trials of badger shooting; [68275]

(2) if she will make an assessment of the effects on the suffering experienced by badgers of *(a)* cage shooting and *(b)* free shooting. [68408]

Mr Paice: The only two culling methods that we are proposing to permit are cage-trapping and shooting, and controlled shooting, on the basis that they are both considered to be humane. The Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) provided evidence on the humaneness of cage-trapping and shooting. No badgers were injured but not killed in this trial. Controlled shooting was not part of the RBCT, but has been effective in controlling other wild animal populations such as deer and foxes. This method has not been used to date in any trial or field test on badgers, which is why (if the Government decide to proceed with the policy following the current consultation) we intend to pilot it in two areas, to test our assumptions about its effectiveness (at removing badgers) and humaneness. These pilots would be overseen by an independent panel of scientific experts.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence her Department has assessed of the likely effects of perturbation in conjunction with the practice of free shooting in plans for badger population control. [68409]

Mr Paice: There is no reason to believe that controlled shooting will have any greater effect on perturbation than cage trapping and shooting. Provided controlled shooting adheres to the same strict licence criteria, and the same number of badgers are removed during a similar period of time, there is no reason to suppose the effect seen will be any different to that observed in the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT).

As there are no empirical data available on the effect of controlled shooting on perturbation, this assessment is based on consultation with experts on badger ecology.

We propose to take a precautionary approach through a pilot of the policy, initially licensing two areas in the first year.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to ensure the continuity of badger culling under a licensing scheme for the duration of the trials. [68412]

Mr Paice: To ensure continuity that any culling would be carried out for a minimum of four years, we propose that all participants would be required to enter into agreements with Natural England, which would set out participants' obligations and, if necessary as a last resort, allow Government to intervene, access participating land, take over responsibility for a culling operation and recover costs from the participants, should the participants fail to meet the conditions of the licence.

Participants would also be required to deposit sufficient funds to cover the total expected cost of the four-year cull (plus a contingency sum) before culling begins. Government would be able to access these funds in the event that it needed to intervene, and be able to levy additional funds from the original participants should that be necessary.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals her Department has for vaccination around a badger culling area. [68414]

Mr Paice: As set out in our draft guidance to Natural England, vaccination could be used in combination with culling, for example as a buffer for areas where vaccination may help reduce the risks to vulnerable livestock of increased TB incidence, both within and surrounding a control area, as a result of perturbation from the local badger population.

Where the use of vaccination in combination with culling is proposed, the following best practice is recommended:

a. Where vaccination is to be used as a buffer, it should be used at active badger setts found on, or adjacent to, land where vulnerable livestock are present and which fall within 2km of the edge of a control area;

b. Vaccination should take place at least 4 weeks prior to culling to allow immunity to develop in uninfected vaccinated animals;

c. To mitigate any ongoing perturbation effect and begin to build up "herd immunity", vaccination should be carried out annually, continuing for at least the same length of time as any culling on adjacent land; and

d. Where culling and vaccination are taking place on adjacent land, boundary cage-trapping (designed to cull badgers resident on inaccessible land) should be avoided.

We also intend to make available up to £250,000 a year of new funding to support farmers and landowners who plan to vaccinate badgers. More details will be published shortly.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements *(a)* farmers and *(b)* landowners will be required to meet in order to receive licences for culling badgers. [68416]

Mr Paice: Applications for a culling licence must meet a range of criteria. These are set out in the draft guidance to Natural England, on which we are currently consulting with key stakeholders, at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/files/bovinetb-guidance-ne-110719-annexa.pdf

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to tackle bovine tuberculosis borne by badgers outside culling areas. [68417]

Mr Paice: The Government's TB control programme is focused on reducing the incidence of TB in cattle (and other vulnerable livestock) across the whole of England. The proposed badger control policy aims to reduce the incidence of TB in cattle in areas with a reservoir of disease in badgers and where infection is cycling between the species. In such areas the transmission risks can be reduced by badger culling and/or badger vaccination. In areas without a reservoir of disease in badgers, the main TB risk is from cattle movements. DEFRA's recently published "TB Eradication Programme for England" outlines a comprehensive range of cattle measures to address bovine TB which remain the cornerstone of our efforts to control the disease right across the country.

Biofuels

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Rapid Response Forum of G20 agriculture ministers plans to consider a temporary adjustment of biofuels policies. [68624]

Mr Paice: The Rapid Response Forum, which is a body of senior officials, will respond to particular crises as and when they occur or threaten to occur. It is thus not possible to say in advance what measures might be considered, since particular measures are likely to be relevant to some situations and not others. However, the action plan agreed by G20 Agriculture Ministers provides for further work on the relationship between biofuels production and the response of agriculture to price increase and volatility, and I expect the results of that work to be available to the forum in due course.

Boats

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many boats with *(a)* a home mooring licence and *(b)* a continuous cruising licence have moored on average in (i) the Rivers Lea and Stort and (ii) the Regent's Canal in the last five years. [69075]

Richard Benyon: This information has been recorded since 2007 by British Waterways as follows:

Average boats observed during licence checks

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Rivers Lea and Stort				
Boats recorded as having a home mooring	571	737	769	712
Boats recorded as being continuous cruisers	107	166	187	241
Other[1]	22	18	37	45
Total	700	921	993	998
Regent's Canal				
Boats recorded as having a home mooring	295	237	308	304
Boats recorded as being continuous cruisers	33	42	56	112
Other[1]	11	19	16	24
Total	339	298	380	440

[1] Includes boats for whom no mooring declaration was received, trailed boats and boats with home moorings on a non British Waterways navigation.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has for expenditure on research into combating bovine tuberculosis in each of the next four years. [68404]

Mr Paice: The Bovine TB research budget for the financial year 2011-12 is £7.9 million.

For 2012-13 it will be £7.5 million.

For 2013-14 it is anticipated to be between £6.6 million and £7.5 million.

For 2014-15 it is anticipated to be between £5.4 million and £7.4 million.

The budget has not yet been set for 2015-16.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of implementation of her Department's policy on the badger population in England on the transmission of bovine tuberculosis *(a)* between badgers and *(b)* from badgers to cattle in areas adjacent to designated culling areas. [68407]

Mr Paice: The results of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) showed that incidence of TB in cattle on land immediately surrounding the culling area had a temporary increase, which then tailed off. With the latest post-trial analysis showing that 12-18 months after culling stopped the level of TB in cattle in the surrounding area was compatible with the survey-only areas. This is thought to be due to the disruption of the organisation of badger social groups, called perturbation, causing remaining badgers to range more widely. However, measures can be put in place to mitigate the negative effects seen in the surrounding area, including making use of barriers such as coastlines and major rivers, to limit badger movement. Vaccination could also be used to mitigate the negative effects of culling. Our proposal (on which we are currently consulting) therefore requires participants to take reasonable, proportionate and appropriate measures to minimise the risk of potential negative effects.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what scientific evidence has been made available to her Department on the effects on control of bovine tuberculosis of individual licensing of badger culls. [68410]

Mr Paice: The results of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) demonstrate that badger culling, done on a sufficient scale, in a widespread, coordinated and efficient way, and over a sustained period of time, would reduce the incidence of bovine TB in cattle in high incidence areas.

The proposed policy is for groups of farmers/landowners covering areas of at least 150 sq km to apply for a single licence. One of the criteria for a licence is that the group would be required to co-ordinate culling across the whole area, for a six-week period, each year for four years.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the potential differences in the relative magnitude of the change in increased incidences and reduced incidences of bovine tuberculosis which will occur through the variation of any areas culled in comparison to those used during the random badger culling trial. [68411]

Mr Paice: In the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT), an average five years of proactive culling over 100 sq km was associated with an average 23.2% decrease in confirmed TB incidence in the culled area, and an average 24.5% increase in the surrounding 2 km-wide ring of land, relative to survey-only areas.

As the size of a culled area increases, the relative impact of any detrimental effects in the surrounding ring diminishes compared to the benefits seen in the culled area, so the overall net benefit increases. The size of this effect also depends heavily on other factors, including the local background incidence of TB, the density of cattle herds and the degree to which the culled area is surrounded by barriers or buffers to minimise the perturbation effect.

The effects seen during and post culling in the RBCT can be used to estimate the average net effect of culling over different size areas.

For example, the estimated average net benefit of culling over a culled area of 150 sq km and 2 km surrounding ring is a 16.0% reduction in confirmed TB incidence (95% confidence interval: 7.9% reduction to 24.2% reduction) over a nine-year period (based on an average five years' culling and four year post cull period). This estimate assumes a higher initial TB incidence in the culled area relative to the surrounding ring.

For comparison, for culling over a 100 sq km area (as in the RBCT), the estimated average net benefit over a nine-year period would be a 14.0% reduction (95% confidence interval: 5.3% reduction to 22.8% reduction).

Brown-Tailed Moth Caterpillar

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has *(a)* considered the merits of and *(b)* assessed the efficacy of nucleopolyhedrovirus as a biological control of the brown-tailed moth caterpillar. [68645]

Mr Paice: The chemicals regulation directorate (CRD), which operates the approvals system for plant protection products, has not received an application for the approval of the use of nucleopolyhedrovirus to control the brown tailed moth caterpillar and no assessment has therefore been made. There is, however, a range of pesticide products approved for use against moths.

While there is no approval for nucleopolyhedrovirus as a biological control of the brown-tailed moth caterpillar, the CRD has approved other viruses for the control of moths such as the granulosis virus on the codling moth. The CRD operates a Biopesticide Scheme which offers applicants advice and reduced fees to help in securing approval for such types of biological pesticides. The amount of scientific data required to support applications for such viruses has been reduced in line with international guidance.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on agricultural production of the brown-tailed moth caterpillar; and what steps her Department is considering to address the issue. [68734]

Mr Paice: The brown-tailed moth caterpillar is not a significant agricultural pest. Therefore we have not made an assessment of the caterpillar's effect on agricultural production, and are not considering steps to address the issue.

Coastal Erosion

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make funding available to Hartlepool borough council to secure coastal defences in the borough of Hartlepool between Crimdon Dene and Newburn Bridge; and if she will make a statement. [68019]

Richard Benyon: In February 2011, the Environment Agency provided nearly £400,000 to Hartlepool borough council to undertake a strategic review of the coastal frontage from Crimdon Dene to Newburn Bridge. This coastal strategy, which is due to be completed by the end of the year, will identify and categorise the risk of coastal erosion and coastal flooding along the frontage, and will identify strategic options to address any areas at immediate risk.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the coastal defences required to ensure that The Headland in the borough of Hartlepool is safeguarded against *(a)* flooding and *(b)* rising sea levels; and if she will make a statement. [68020]

Richard Benyon: Hartlepool borough council is the Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authority leading on coastal protection for the Hartlepool headland.

In November 2010, Hartlepool borough council secured £70,000 of funding from the Environment Agency to undertake a study into the coastal defences around the Hartlepool headland, as recommended by the approved River Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan 2. The study is considering the existing condition of the defences, the assets at risk and options for securing the defences into the future.

Cormorants

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the number of cormorants which roost and feed inshore; and what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is considering to control their numbers. [60133]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 16 June 2011]*: The most recently published figures from "The Wetland Bird Survey" relating to cormorants counted outside the breeding season are for the year 2008-09. Coastal and inland counts are not reported separately so figures for the number of cormorants which roost and feed inshore are therefore not available. Maximum counts outside of the breeding season were reported of 17,149 in Great Britain in September 2008, and of 1,619 in December 2008.

No steps have been taken to control cormorant numbers at a national level. Where cormorants come into conflict with inland fisheries Natural England may issue licences to lethally control cormorants. Licences to shoot cormorants, typically as an aid to scaring, are issued on a case by case basis at sites where there is evidence of serious damage to fisheries, or a risk of serious damage occurring, and all other practical alternatives have been tried and have failed.

Recognising concerns raised by anglers and fishery managers, I announced at the Angling and Fisheries summit on 25 January that the Government are to carry out a review of the current policy in relation to managing the impact of predation on inland fisheries from fish-eating birds, including cormorants. Once completed the outcomes of the review will be made publicly available.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many letters her Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68757]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA received 988 letters and 11 invitations directly from hon. Members in June 2011. 88 of the letters were on subjects for which DEFRA is not responsible and so were transferred to the relevant Departments. Just over 100 letters on DEFRA's subjects were transferred in by other Departments.

Catering

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* each Government Department auditing the welfare assurance of each of its catering contracts and *(b)* making it mandatory through Government Buying Standards for Departments to buy products that meet an existing, recognised farm assurance label. [68838]

Richard Benyon: The Department has made no direct assessment of the cost of auditing the welfare assurance of its catering contract. The welfare assurance factors of the catering contracts would be reviewed in the ongoing management of the catering contracts on a daily and weekly basis by the supplier and the Department.

The Department has now centralised its catering contract provision covering 11 sites in England. The mandatory use of the Government Buying Standards to buy products that meet an existing, recognised farm assurance label is included in this managed catering service.

NDPB Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) her Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which she is responsible since May 2010. [66326]

Richard Benyon: The number of staff who have been *(a)* recruited, *(b)* made redundant and (c) taken voluntary redundancy or left on a voluntary exit scheme from (i) the Department, and (ii) each NDPB since May 2010 is set out in the following table. The NDPBs recorded here are DEFRA's executive non-departmental public bodies.

Please note that the Commission for Rural Communities and the Sustainable Development Commission have closed since May 2010, while Food From Britain closed in 2009. The Agricultural Wages Board and the Agricultural Wages Committee do not employ any staff.

Department/NDPB	*Number of staff recruited*	*Number of staff made compulsorily redundant*	*Number of staff taking voluntary redundancy or leaving on voluntary exit scheme*
DEFRA (including the executive agencies)	176	—	722
Food From Britain	n/a	n/a	n/a
Environment Agency	218	89	560
Agricultural, Horticultural Development Board	96	14	0
Marine Management Organisation	—	0	15
Commission for Rural Communities	0	40	—
Agricultural Wages Board	n/a	n/a	n/a
Agricultural Wages Committee	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	12	0	0
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	—	0	0
National Forest Company	—	0	—
Consumer Council for Water	0	0	0
Seafish	0	11	0
Sustainable Development Commission	0	24	8
Kew	71	—	0
Natural England	11	0	294

Note:

Numbers of less than five are not disclosed for reasons of confidentiality

Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which she is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66345]

Richard Benyon: The amount spent on *(a)* compulsory redundancy payments and *(b)* voluntary redundancy payments and compensation paid to staff leaving on voluntary exit schemes since May 2010 in (i) the Department, and (ii) each NDPB is set out in the following table. The NDPBs recorded here are DEFRA's Executive NDPBs.

Please note that the Commission for Rural Communities and the Sustainable Development Commission have closed since May 2010, while Food From Britain closed in 2009. The Agricultural Wages Board and the Agricultural Wages Committee do not employ any staff.

£

Department/NDPB	*Amount spent on compulsory redundancy payments*	*Amount spent on voluntary redundancy payments and voluntary exit scheme compensation*
DEFRA (including the Executive agencies)	248,483	28,651,496
Food From Britain	n/a	n/a
Environment Agency	3,040,514	24,546,875
Agricultural, Horticultural Development Board	328,351	0
Marine Management Organisation	0	350,000
Commission for Rural Communities	707,318	128,000
Agricultural Wages Board	n/a	n/a
Agricultural Wages Committee	n/a	n/a
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	0	0
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	0	0
National Forest Company	0	59,404
Consumer Council for Water	0	0
Seafish	148,697	0
Sustainable Development Commission	356,442	119,696
Kew	[1]—	0
Natural England	0	10,900,000

[1] Amount not disclosed for reasons of confidentiality

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67543]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The amount spent on *(a)* compulsory redundancy payments and *(b)* voluntary redundancy payments and compensation paid to staff leaving on voluntary exit schemes since May 2010 in (i) the Department, and (ii) each NDPB is set out in the following table. The NDPBs recorded here are DEFRA's Executive NDPBs.

Please note that the Commission for Rural Communities and the Sustainable Development Commission have closed since May 2010, while Food From Britain closed in 2009. The Agricultural Wages Board and the Agricultural Wages Committee do not employ any staff.

£

Department/NDPB	*Amount spent on compulsory redundancy payments*	*Amount spent on voluntary redundancy payments and voluntary exit scheme compensation*
DEFRA (including the Executive agencies)	248,483	28,651,496
Food From Britain	n/a	n/a
Environment Agency	3,040,514	24,546,875
Agricultural, Horticultural Development Board	328,351	0
Marine Management Organisation	0	350,000
Commission for Rural Communities	707,318	128,000
Agricultural Wages Board	n/a	n/a
Agricultural Wages Committee	n/a	n/a
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	0	0
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	0	0
National Forest Company	0	59,404
Consumer Council for Water	0	0
Seafish	148,697	0
Sustainable Development Commission	356,442	119,696
Kew	[1]—	0
Natural England	0	10,900,000

[1] Amount not disclosed for reasons of confidentiality

Farming Regulation Task Force

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when she expects to respond to the recommendations of the Independent Farming Regulation Task Force; [69115]

(2) what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills conducting the Employment Law Review on the Independent Farming Regulation Task Force's recommendations on reform of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority; [69116]

(3) what discussions she has had with *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Association of Labour Providers on the Independent Farming Regulation Task Force's recommendations on reform of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. [69117]

Mr Paice: The Government are considering the recommendations made by the independent task force on farming regulation and will publish an initial response this autumn and a final response early in 2012. The response will take account of other reviews, including the employment law review.

DEFRA officials are working closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on the review of Government enforcement of workplace rights, which forms part of the employment law review. The independent task force recommended changes in respect of Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) processes and communications but not on reform of the authority. These recommendations have been discussed by the GLA board, on which trade unions, the Association of Labour Providers, DEFRA and BIS are represented.

Fisheries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK fixed quota allocation is held by non-active fishermen. [60234]

Richard Benyon: Information in terms of the holdings of Fixed Quota Allocation (FQA) units by members of each UK fishermen's Producer Organisations is available as part of the information released each year as part of the process of allocating the overall UK quota out to various parts of the industry. The latest information available is on holdings as at 1 January 2010 used to distribute quotas for 2010, and it is available from the Marine Management Organisation's internet site at:

> http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/management/quotas.htm

Similar information for the position as at 1 January 2011 is currently being finalised as part of final allocations of quotas for 2011.

These reports do not include details of holdings by non-active fishermen. Such information would include personal data as defined in Section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act as information relating to living persons, and thus disclosure would breach the principles within the act. In addition, the information requested is effectively details of a commercial (or personal) asset held by the owner and is thus regarded as commercially sensitive, in that if others gain knowledge of their quota ownership (or possibly lack of ownership), it may potentially affect business agreements they might enter into.

The commercial sensitivity and personal nature of the information also prevents the provision of the information. In addition, a significant proportion of quota is held by producer organisations themselves on behalf of their members or other individuals. The actual beneficial holder of the quota is known by the producer organisation involved but this information is not routinely collected by fisheries administrations. As such it is not possible to determine to what extent these holdings may be held by those who are not-active fishermen.

An exercise was carried out in 2007 to look at the details on the ownership of the quota allocation units held by Producer Organisation (PO) on behalf of others. This indicated that for the total holdings of FQA units in the UK, the proportion held by POs themselves rather than linked to individual vessels was 18.6%. Of this, 3.1% was being held by the PO itself on behalf of its members as a collective asset, 5.5% on behalf of individual active members of the PO, 4.4% held on behalf of vessel agents or salesmen, 2.0% held as part of Community Quota Schemes and 3.5% on behalf of other types of owner.

Fisheries: Foreign Nationals

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many foreign fishing vessels with historical rights of access have access to the six to 12 nautical miles UK coastal zone. [56421]

Richard Benyon: Full details of the access arrangements for foreign fishing vessels in the UK six to 12 mile coastal zone are set out in Article 17.2 and Annex 1.1 of Council Regulation 2371/2002. Under these arrangements, all fishing vessels from France, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Ireland have either full or limited access to some parts of the UK six to 12 mile limits. The Government do not keep records of the number of vessels that actually exercise these rights of access.

Fisheries: Safety

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to safeguard the under-10-metre fishing fleet in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Hartlepool; and if she will make a statement. [68029]

Richard Benyon: The proposals set out in the recently conducted consultation on domestic fisheries management reforms seek to create a more profitable, sustainable, unified fishing industry in the long term, which will benefit the under-10-metre fishing fleet.

The responses to the consultation are currently being analysed, and will be used to inform future policy decisions. Any decisions that are made will be for the benefit of the industry as a whole and with due regard to the impacts on the under-10-metre fleet fishermen around the coast, including in the North East, and specifically Hartlepool.

The Government's response to the consultation will be published at the end of September.

Food: Procurement

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider encouraging local authority care homes to comply with Government Buying Standards for the public procurement of food and food services. [68106]

Mr Paice: Although Government Buying Standards (GBS) will only be mandatory for central Government, GBS is also being promoted to the wider public sector including local authorities, which control procurement in many public bodies care homes and schools. There is a balance to be struck between the need to ensure food procured by the public sector is healthier and more sustainable and the need for local public sector bodies to make their own decisions on how best to spend the public money that they are allocated. Given the current financial pressures on all public expenditure it is essential that the measures are affordable and deliver real benefits in terms of sustainability and improved nutrition.

There are many examples of public bodies finding good, healthy and sustainable food that is no more expensive right on their doorstep and I know that many people would like to see this happen more. In keeping with the Government's localism approach, we want to give people and communities power to make changes on issues like this that are important to them. We would like to see all public sector bodies procuring at least to GBS standards and we will encourage them to do so. But many people want to go further than this, and our approach to public sector procurement has been designed to support them. We want local people to be able to express their own preferences and for their voices to be heard.

LIFE

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has had with the European Commission on the eligibility for the next programming round of LIFE+ of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the EU member states; [68860]

(2) what discussions she has had with her *(a)* French and *(b)* Dutch counterparts about opening up the next programming round of LIFE+ to the Overseas Countries and Territories of the EU member states; [68861]

(3) what her policy is on the opening up of the next programming round of LIFE+ to British Overseas Territories. [68862]

Richard Benyon: The European Commission is yet to make its proposal for a new EU financial instrument for the environment. Discussions with the European Commission or other member states are not currently planned in advance of seeing the European Commission's proposal. Once this is available we will develop a UK position.

Livestock: Transport

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to amend the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847 to allow the owner of a port to refuse its use for the live export of animals; and if she will make a statement. [68857]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 956W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to reply to the letters of *(a)* 24 May 2011 and *(b)* 22 June 2011 from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed to the Parliamentary-Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, concerning the over-breeding of low-valued ponies. [68804]

Mr Paice: I replied to the right hon. Member's letters to Lord Henley on 27 July 2011. This was due to the high volume of correspondence received during this period.

Milk: Prices

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of European Commission data on farm gate milk prices in pence per litre in EU member states; and if she will make a statement. [68426]

Mr Paice: The milk price in pence per litre in EU member states recorded by the European Commission for the last five years is given as follows (some data are unavailable).

Recent monthly figures from the Commission show that the UK has the lowest average raw milk price of all EU member states.

Member state	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Austria	21.03	24.01	31.76	26.66	28.10
Belgium	18.96	24.48	26.14	21.76	26.93
Bulgaria	—	—	—	23.30	24.42
Czech Rep.	18.89	20.83	26.86	20.78	24.99
Cyprus	28.35	29.23	40.70	46.90	45.34
Denmark	20.35	22.37	30.42	25.30	28.22
Estonia	17.08	19.01	24.26	19.35	24.51
Finland	25.21	26.53	37.55	36.39	32.83
France	20.55	22.27	29.69	27.43	27.35
Germany	18.93	23.07	27.36	21.79	27.36
Greece	24.55	27.32	35.36	34.61	32.99
Hungary	16.58	20.17	26.27	19.73	23.03
Ireland	19.11	24.72	29.06	22.74	27.19
Italy	22.52	24.25	30.62	28.08	29.89
Latvia	16.50	18.66	22.55	17.16	22.21
Lithuania	14.30	17.24	20.75	16.78	22.24
Luxembourg	21.40	25.52	30.78	24.66	26.32
Malta	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	19.52	23.22	29.40	24.61	27.77
Poland	17.85	20.88	24.74	20.38	24.17
Portugal	19.23	22.38	29.71	26.67	25.34
Romania	—	—	—	18.71	21.18
Slovakia	17.58	20.49	26.38	19.26	24.15
Slovenia	18.55	19.79	27.03	23.80	23.74
Spain	20.80	25.00	31.00	26.82	25.98
Sweden	20.12	22.12	29.42	24.04	29.74
United Kingdom	17.98	20.80	25.78	23.71	24.65

Source:
DG Agri and DairyCo

UK dairy farmers are among the most efficient and competitive in Europe. I have challenged the industry to capture more of domestic and export markets, given the low farmgate price paid relative to our European competitors.

Nature Conservation: Voluntary Work

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department plans to provide to *(a)* the Muck In4Life campaign and *(b)* any other element of the Change4Life campaign in each of the next four years. [61555]

Richard Benyon: We have made initial commitments to fund some community activity for Muck In4Life in 2011-12, but have not made any commitments on any other element of the Change4Life campaign over the next four years as this would be led by the Department of Health. It is possible that some further funding may be available in the future, but in keeping with the principles of big society and the commitments of the Natural Environment White Paper we will be looking to promote Muck In4Life using partner networks and sponsorship.

Plants: Diseases

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will put in place measures to improve the protection of indigenous plants from diseases and pests borne on foreign plant imports. [68061]

Mr Paice: Under the EU Plant Health Directive, the UK implements a series of measures to prevent the entry of plant pests and diseases. These include the requirement to inspect plant imports and for consignments of plants to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. These certificates confirm that the exporting country has attested to the health of the plants and that they meet the EU's import requirements. Despite this regime of inspection and other statutory requirements, there are frequent findings of pests and diseases in imports both from within and outside the EU. The weaknesses of the current regime in providing adequate protection for the UK and other member states from plant pests and disease has prompted a review of the EU's plant health regime, which we are actively supporting.

The UK and other member states are pressing for improved controls so that import inspections are focused on trades presenting the highest risks, and so that new trades, particularly those involving plants for planting, are subject to assessment of risk in advance of import. Other issues, such as the tightening of the concession which allows travellers to import limited quantities of plants and plant material for personal use are also under consideration. We anticipate these will be consulted on next year after the EU publishes its draft proposals for change.

To strengthen controls at our borders, there is also a programme of research at the Food and Environment Research Agency to improve methods of detection of pests in consignments of plants. This includes the development of quick test kits to detect the DNA of plant pathogens and the use of acoustic technology to detect insect larvae within the stems of plants.

Third Sector

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in her Department have visited since May 2010. [67542]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* DEFRA already publishes a list of ministerial meetings with all external organisations, including charities and voluntary organisations. This is published on a quarterly basis and is placed on the DEFRA website.

Trees: Disease Control

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to prevent the spread of sudden oak death in English woodlands. [68238]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Tiverton and Honiton (Neil Parish) on 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 611W.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Attorney-General how many senior civil servants in the Law Officers' Departments at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements these Departments had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised those Departments in each such year. [68965]

The Solicitor-General: During the last four years the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) recruited one individual directly into the senior civil service (SCS). This person had worked for Pricewaterhouse Coopers and was recruited at SCS1.

No other individuals previously working for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG have been employed by the Law Officers' Departments at SCS grade during this period of time.

Deloitte were engaged by the Attorney-General's Office for consultancy work in connection with the Fraud Review and establishment of the National Fraud Authority in the financial year ending 31 March 2008. Two consultants were engaged.

KPMG LLP were engaged by the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) for consultancy work on the development of the TSol Finance and Vision Strategy in the financial year ending 31 March 2009. One lead consultant was engaged; it is not recorded whether any or how many consultants worked in support of the lead consultant.

In addition, PWC and Ernst and Young have been engaged by Tsol to provide expert witness reports for eight cases in the last four years.

One other individual from PWC undertook some consultancy work at the SFO for four months in December 2008 to March 2009.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Attorney-General how many letters the Law Officers' Departments received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68765]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table:

MPs letters in June 2011

	Number
CPS	35
TSol	1
HMCPSI	0
SFO	5
AGO	29

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Attorney-General how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by the Law Officers' Departments in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68545]

The Solicitor-General: The only dedicated helpline operated by the Law Officers' Departments is a telephone inquiry line operated by the Bona Vacantia Division of TSol. This deals with general inquiries and provides information and advice to callers on Bona Vacantia cases. There is no separate budget to run this inquiry line. The cost is subsumed within the general running of the Bona Vacantia Division which is itself funded through the revenue it generates.

Prosecutions

John Mann: To ask the Attorney-General on what dates the Director of Public Prosecutions has discussed possible prosecutions of police officers or journalists with *(a)* other staff of the Crown Prosecution Service, *(b)* Ministers, *(c)* the Metropolitan Police and *(d)* other interested parties since 2003. [68659]

The Solicitor-General: There are regular and frequent meetings and discussions between the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff, police and Ministers on a range of issues. Case-related meetings are not recorded in a way that allows the interrogation of the central records to identify the defendant's occupation. Cases might also be discussed as part of meetings on other topics.

The CPS's case management system records cases under defendants' names. It does not specifically identify the occupation of defendants. While the CPS's special crime division deals with serious cases, including those involving police officers as defendants, cases involving more minor allegations against police officers may be dealt with by any of the CPS's area offices throughout England and Wales. Cases involving journalists could also be dealt with by any of the area offices. Defendants' occupations could be identified in every case only by examining individual case files.

The CPS, like all Government Departments, operates a carefully controlled policy under the Public Records Acts, which ensures that paperwork is retained for as long as is necessary, but no longer. Since 2003, some of the case files relating to police officers or journalists as defendants will therefore have been destroyed in accordance with their departmental policy in relation to the retention and destruction of files.

John Mann: To ask the Attorney-General how many requests to prosecute journalists for offences related to receiving information from police sources the Crown Prosecution Service discussed with the Metropolitan Police in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [68669]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) case management system records cases under defendants' names. It does not specifically identify the occupation of defendants. Defendants' occupations could be identified in every case only by examining individual case files, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Historic Buildings

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Bahrain on the recent demolition of mosques, places of worship and places of cultural and historical significance in that country. [68592]

Alistair Burt: We continue to make representations to the Government of Bahrain related to human rights abuses. However, although we are aware that some structures were removed during the unrest, we have not made specific representations about alleged demolition of mosques, places of worship or places of cultural and historical significance.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: War Crimes

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. [68690]

Mr Lidington: The Government's most recent contact with representatives of the victims of the Srebrenica massacre took place on 11 July in Srebrenica at the commemoration marking the 16th anniversary of the genocide there. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) asked my noble Friend Baroness Warsi, Minister without Portfolio, to represent the UK. Her presence at the event (which she also attended on behalf of the Government in July 2010) underlines the importance the UK attaches to marking the anniversary, to honouring the victims and to expressing sympathy with their friends and families. In addition, the Prime Minister issued a statement marking the occasion. He reiterated his conviction that the world must never again allow such atrocities to occur unopposed.

The UK has committed considerable programme funding to Srebrenica-related projects since 2000, including contributing to construction of the memorial complex in Srebrenica, support to the International Commission for Missing Persons and legal secondments to the team in the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) State Prosecutor's Office dealing with Srebrenica-related crimes. My noble Friend Baroness Warsi visited partners in British embassy project activity relating to Srebrenica during her visit. The Foreign Secretary and I have also taken the opportunity to learn more about this work during our own visits to Sarajevo over the past year.

There has been considerable progress towards regional reconciliation in recent years, and many of those responsible for war crimes in the Balkans have already faced justice. The recent arrest of Ratko Mladic underlines the international community's commitment to bringing to justice those responsible for war crimes. While this judicial process can never compensate the bereaved for the losses they continue to bear, the arrest of Mladic, and the subsequent arrest of the last remaining International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia indictee, Goran Hadzic, should mark a turning point for all the countries of the Western Balkans and the start of a new chapter of cooperation and reconciliation.

British Nationals Abroad: Death

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department plans to finalise the new Memorandum of Understanding on the deaths of UK citizens abroad. [64230]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is co-ordinating drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in respect of both the deceased and their family when a British national dies as a result of murder, manslaughter or infanticide abroad. The MoU clarifies the role of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Victim Support National Homicide Service and Coroners Society of England and Wales. I hope it will be available for agreement by the various signatories within the next month.

The NPIA will issue the final version for signature.

Burma: Political Prisoners

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to help secure the freedom of political prisoners in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [69144]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The immediate and unconditional release of Burma's estimated 2,000 political prisoners is an important benchmark by which the UK judges the Burmese Government. We are encouraged that Aung San Suu Kyi met the Burmese President on 19 August and we have called for tangible progress from this dialogue including the release of all political prisoners.

Our ambassador to Rangoon regularly raises with the Burmese authorities the need for the release of all political prisoners. Officials pressed the Burmese President's Chief Political Adviser on 18 August to take such action. The Government also repeatedly raise this issue during discussions with our international partners and in the UN. We are currently working to secure the toughest possible resolution at the UN General Assembly, which we hope will repeat calls for Burma to release all political prisoners and work towards national reconciliation.

Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66334]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) plans to reduce its work force over the next four years in line with our settlement in the comprehensive spending review. This has not required any spending on compulsory redundancies, which we hope to avoid through careful work force planning and voluntary exit rounds. The FCO will only consider making redundancies when its requirements for members of staff to carry out work of a particular kind or at a particular location have reduced, ceased or are expected to do so. We have run four voluntary exit rounds since May last year. We expect to run a further two voluntary exit rounds this year and further rounds over the spending review period. None of the non-departmental public bodies for which we are responsible have made compulsory redundancies.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67456]

Mr Bellingham *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) plans to reduce its work force over the next four years in line with our settlement in the comprehensive spending review.

This has not required any spending on compulsory redundancies, which we hope to avoid through careful work force planning and voluntary exit rounds. The FCO will only consider making redundancies when its requirements for members of staff to carry out work of a particular kind or at a particular location have reduced, ceased or are expected to do so. We have run four voluntary exit rounds since May last year. We expect to run a further two voluntary exit rounds this year and further rounds over the spending review period.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68546]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s Consular staff in London and overseas regularly answer phone calls from British Nationals seeking our help, including through our 24 hour Global Response Centre. Consular Directorate also provides the following telephone helplines:

Travel Advice telephone line—This service offers access to Foreign Office travel advice to those who are unable to view it online, or who wish to inquire in person. The service is currently provided by a commercial partner and we have budgeted £180,000 for 2011-12. We continue to improve our online travel advice, and hope to reduce this cost by making online advice easier to use.

Overseas Crises—In a crisis affecting British Nationals overseas the FCO may activate a call handling capacity to take calls from affected members of the public, either in-house or outsourced to a commercial partner or the police. This depends on the scale of the incident. These call handlers usually respond to calls to a dedicated emergency hotline number. Funding for operational costs is not allocated in advance, but these costs can be claimed for from the Treasury held Emergency Disaster Reserve should the total costs of our crisis response surpass £150,000.

Legalisation, and Births, Deaths and Marriages Inquiries—This service is currently being provided by a commercial partner, to enable the Legalisation Office staff to process documents as efficiently as possible and ensure calls are always answered promptly. The budget for 2011-12 is £80,000. Within the same contract, there is an inquiry line for British Nationals looking to register a birth or death or with questions about getting married or arranging a civil partnership overseas.

Passport Inquiry line—Between 1 June 2009 and 1 April 2011, Consular Directorate employed Careline, a UK based company, to provide a telephone inquiry and tracking service for customers applying for passports overseas. Careline continue to provide this service but the contract is now managed by the Identity and Passport Service, an executive agency of the Home Office. The FCO did not pay for this service; customers are charged direct by Careline. Exceptionally, the FCO covered the cost of calls to Careline, from 15 July to 31 July 2011 for customers served by the Regional Passport Processing Centre in Dusseldorf and from 15 July until 31 August for customers served by the Processing Centre in Washington because of delays in passport production. The final amount of these exceptional costs is not yet known.

Consular Directorate provides specific telephone numbers for certain customers requiring FCO support. These are regular FCO phone lines manned by Consular staff at no additional cost:

The Child Abduction Section helpline to answer urgent questions from British Nationals involved in a parental child abduction, residence or contact dispute overseas;

The Forced Marriage Unit helpline, for British Nationals who are worried about a possible forced marriage. This is a joint initiative with the Home Office; A helpline for MPs wishing to speak to a member of Consular Directorate about constituency cases.

Overseas Travel

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department publishes on foreign visits to be undertaken by Ministers of his Department; how much prior notification is provided to external bodies of such visits; and how such information is publicised. [68558]

Mr Lidington: For security and operational reasons, we do not generally comment on or announce visits significantly in advance. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works closely with foreign governments and, where relevant, external organisations in planning visits. Information about visits is provided through press releases and the FCO publishes a retrospective quarterly list of ministerial visits on its website.

Environment Protection: International Co-operation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with his international counterparts on the development of low-carbon technologies. [67940]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has had discussions with counterparts on a range of issues including the transition to low carbon. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working hard to help create the political conditions in key countries for a rapid and efficient global low carbon transition. Alongside UK Trade and Investment, the FCO is also championing British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world.

European External Action Service

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on whether climate change and energy security should be a priority for the European External Action Service. [68115]

Mr Lidington: On 18 July 2011 the Foreign Affairs Council adopted Conclusions which set out the need for climate and energy security to be included as part of the European External Action Service's role. This was a direct result of a joint request by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and his German counterpart. I reinforced this during ongoing discussions with European Union counterparts covering the role of the European External Action Service. Progress made by the European External Action Service on these issues will be reviewed at a future Foreign Affairs Council.

Food: Prices

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of recent trends in food prices on the development of popular uprisings in North Africa and the middle east. [68093]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office monitors and conducts analysis on the impact of commodity prices to the world economy including in the North Africa and the middle east region.

North Africa is particularly vulnerable to food price volatility, with poor domestic conditions and significant exposure to international markets. The region is a substantial net importer of wheat and heavily subsidises consumption. Food price inflation was one contributory factor to the Tunisian and Egyptian unrest, and fuelled discontent across the region. Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt have all reassured citizens that food and commodity subsidies will be maintained amidst the recent unrest. Although allowing Governments to quell immediate discontent, this brings significant fiscal constraints, shoring up problems for the future. We believe Governments need to adopt sustainable economic and targeted social protection policies which deliver long-term benefits for the development of their societies and prospects for their people. Putting these policies in place will need to be carefully sequenced over time especially given the very high expectations of people to see tangible benefits from reforms.

The major oil exporters in the middle east are well guarded against the fiscal pressures of rising food prices. Food insecurity continues in Yemen, and recent droughts have turned Iran from a significant wheat exporter to a wheat importer.

As part of the Government's new "Building Stability Overseas Strategy' (BSOS), an early warning system is being developed to anticipate instability and potential triggers for conflict. This will allow for early preventive action as well as rapid response to any incidents. BSOS also seeks to invest in upstream prevention on instability by helping to build legitimate institutions in fragile countries.

Greece: Shipping

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request from his Greek counterpart an explanation of the basis in international law for the actions of the Greek authorities in preventing British-registered civilian vessels from departing ports in Greece in early July 2011. [67981]

Mr Lidington: We are not aware that any British-registered civilian ships were prevented from departing ports in Greece in July 2011. The Greek Government have publicly stated that their decision to ban the departure of Greek or foreign vessels from Greek ports to the Gaza naval blockade zone was based on their own maritime laws, as well as concerns about security and the protection of human life. We do not intend to request any further explanations.

Human Rights: Business

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account the Overseas Business Risk Service will take of the human rights situation in countries upon which the service advises UK businesses on risk. [68130]

Mr Bellingham: Our Overseas Business Risk website, which is run jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade and Investment, offers country specific advice to British companies to help them manage political and reputational risks when operating overseas. We intend to develop the website further in order that it provides context on some of the key issues that business may want to consider, such as complying with UK legislation on Bribery or the potential impact their business activity can have on human rights and how to avoid adverse impacts as a part of their political and reputational risk management.

We believe that free trade and economic growth promote development and respect for human rights. We encourage British businesses to be aware of their potential impacts on human rights. Not only is there a moral imperative to ensure that human rights are respected, we think there is also a strong business case for doing so as an important contribution to stable, healthy and sustainable markets.

Iran: Higher Education

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Iranian Government on recent raids on the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education. [68167]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned by Iranian action to shut down the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education. We have raised this issue with the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires a number of times, including most recently when I met the Charge on 2 August 2011, requesting an official response to the issue in writing. We will continue to call on Iran to respect the full and equal rights of its people regardless of their faith or ethnicity in line with its international obligations, and to cease the harassment of the Baha'i community.

Jerusalem: Religious Freedom

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the status of Jerusalem as a holy city for all faiths. [68664]

Alistair Burt: Jerusalem has unique religious significance to many different faith groups. Our goal is a secure and universally recognised Israel living alongside a sovereign and viable Palestinian state, based on the borders of 1967, with Jerusalem the future capital of both states. It is important that all religions can enjoy the religious sites and practice their religious beliefs in a safe and secure environment with mutual respect.

The UK attaches great importance to ensuring freedom of worship for those of all faiths. The Government condemns all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief. We strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the full implementation of the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Libya: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of British nationals in Libya. [68493]

Alistair Burt: On the basis of the number of calls we are currently receiving, we estimate that there are fewer than 100 British nationals in Libya.

We continue to advise against all travel to Libya. We also advise any British nationals currently there to leave. Since the crisis began, British missions in Tunis and Alexandria have assisted over 200 British nationals who have been able to leave Libya.

Libya: Females

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how he will prioritise the participation of women in any discussion on the future of Libya; and if he will make a statement. [68455]

Alistair Burt: We will continue to discuss the participation of women with the National Transitional Council. We underline the need to protect their equal rights in law, politics, freedom of movement and education in the future constitution.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures his Department is taking to identify women's groups and individuals who should participate in any discussion on the future of Libya; and if he will make a statement. [68456]

Alistair Burt: We are actively seeking to identify women's groups and individuals and to engage with them on the future of Libya and their involvement in its development. I chaired a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Eye Witness event on 1 July 2011 with non-governmental organisations and women from both Libya and Tunisia, at which there was discussion of specific issues faced by women in those countries and consideration of the future. We are following up on that event.

Libya: UN Resolutions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had on developing a country-specific action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 for Libya; and if he will make a statement. [68454]

Alistair Burt: We have regular discussions on a wide range of issues with the Libyan National Transitional Council (NTC), both bilaterally and through the Libya Contact Group. These discussions include their 'road map' and stabilisation plan for the future of Libya. We are discussing the role of women with the NTC Executive representative for women, Dr Salwa al-Daghaili, focussing particularly on how that role is defined in the NTC stabilisation plan, and how women's rights are protected in the NTC's Constitutional Declaration.

The UK Government National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security was revised in November 2010 and contains three pilot bilateral country plans for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and Nepal. The NAP is a changing document and will be reviewed in October. A report will be produced and presented to Parliament through a ministerial statement.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 14 June 2011 regarding Mr S. Singh. [68915]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) replied to the right hon. Member's letter of 14 June on 21 July.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to secure negotiations for a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. [69019]

Alistair Burt: We continue to push hard for a return to negotiations on the basis agreed by the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) and President Obama: borders based on 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps; security for Israel; and the right for Palestinians to govern themselves in a sovereign and contiguous state. We are working hard with our international partners for a return to negotiations on this basis.

Failure to return to negotiations now puts at risk the long-term prospects for a solution and, in the short term, will leave the international community facing difficult choices come September in the UN. Neither Israel nor the Palestinians can afford to let the opportunity for peace slip further from their grasp.

Palestinians: British Nationals Abroad

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Israeli Government officials concerning the passage of UK citizens to and from Palestine. [68168]

Alistair Burt: The Government extend consular assistance to British nationals whenever appropriate.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not make general representations on another country's immigration policies or procedures. The Israeli immigration officials are under no obligation to explain their decisions to us and, as mentioned in our travel advice, they have the right to refuse entry to anyone they wish. The UK's immigration authority is similarly protected.

We are aware of one case in which a British national was asked to sign an undertaking on arrival in Tel Aviv that he would not travel to the west bank without the express permission of the Israeli military commander. In this instance, we determined it was not appropriate to raise this incident with the Israeli authorities at the time. We have not had any further reports of British nationals being asked to sign such an undertaking. Were this to become a common occurrence, we would discuss such a policy with the appropriate Israeli authorities.

If British nations plan to travel to Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territories, we advise them to read through the travel advice on the FCO's website, which is available at the follow link;

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/middle-east-north-africa/israel-occupied

Those travelling to the Occupied Palestinian Territories may also obtain further information from the British Consulate-General in Jerusalem before travel.

Palestinians: Detainees

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Israeli Government to ensure that its treatment of Palestinian children in detention in Israeli jails complies with UN guidelines and international standards. [68596]

Alistair Burt: The UK remains concerned about the number of children currently being held in Israeli prisons. We raise our concerns with the Israeli Government about the application of due process and the treatment of Palestinian detainees, including where children are involved, on a frequent basis.

Most recently our ambassador to Israel has raised this issue with the Israeli Ministry of Justice and I raised this during my visit to the region. Our ambassador has also raised the issue of Israel's treatment of Palestinian children with Education Minister Saar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Principal Legal Adviser Daniel Taub.

The hon. Member may be interested to hear that alongside our existing projects, our consulate general in Jerusalem has recently secured funding to fund the UK Bar Committee for Human Rights to come to the Occupied Palestinian Territories in September 2011 to research a report about the treatment of children arrested and detained in the Israeli military court system.

We shall continue to raise our concerns with the Israeli authorities and issue statements when appropriate.

Palestinians: United Nations

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on discussions with his European counterparts on reaching a common European position on UN membership for a Palestinian state. [68008]

Alistair Burt: We discuss the Middle East Peace Process regularly at ministerial and official level with EU Partners. We continue to believe that the best way to achieve a lasting solution that delivers a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel at peace with its neighbours is through a negotiated solution. The EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of July 2011 set out the European policy on the Occupied Palestinian Territories and its hopes for a future Palestinian state.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/123910.pdf

As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), said to the house on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 781-83, whatever happens in September, we must remember that to have a truly viable Palestinian state in control of its own territory, it is necessary to arrive at that by negotiation. We have reserved our position on the question of recognition. The Secretary of State discussed it again with European Union colleagues in Brussels recently, and have all agreed that we will reserve our position, partly because it gives us some leverage over both Israelis and the Palestinians as we urge them back into talks in the coming weeks and months. That is our focus at the moment.

Religious Freedom

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the conclusions were of the recent Wilton Park conference on religious freedoms across the world. [68665]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The conference, entitled "Promoting Religious Freedom Around the World", was attended by a range of national and international religious leaders, non-governmental organisations, academics, parliamentarians and members of the Foreign Secretary's Advisory Group on Human Rights. The conference looked at the main theological, cultural, societal and political drivers behind religious intolerance and persecution. Separate working groups looked at the issues of legal recognition of religions; public manifestation of religions; apostasy and conversion; and blasphemy.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are currently looking at how to strengthen our freedom of religion or belief policy. The conference identified a number of ideas that will now be taken forward in this review, including strengthening the right to freedom of religion or belief in bilateral human rights strategies and developing our engagement with a range of religious leaders. Wilton Park will separately be issuing a summary of the conference, which will be published shortly at:

http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk

Saudi Arabia: Armed Forces

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made any representations to the government of Saudi Arabia on *(a)* the deployment in Bahrain of its military forces and *(b)* the date by which such forces will be removed. [68593]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and the Saudi Foreign Minister met in London on 22 March 2011 and had a constructive discussion on Bahrain. The Secretary of State and Prince Saud agreed that the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) forces, which are in Bahrain at the legitimate invitation of the Bahraini Government, should work to create the right conditions for a successful dialogue.

We have made it clear to the Bahraini Government that the civil rights of peaceful opposition figures, the legitimate exercise of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly must be respected. We also expect it to meet all its human rights obligations by ensuring its citizens can exercise the universal human rights and freedoms to which they are entitled and to which it has committed.

I have not discussed a timetable for withdrawal of the GCC Peninsula Shield Forces from Bahrain with Prince Saud or the Bahraini Government. However, the vast majority of the Saudi Arabian National Guard contribution has now withdrawn from Bahrain, without incident.

South Sudan

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is providing to the UN mission in South Sudan. [68276]

Mr Bellingham: We worked closely with partners in the UN Security Council to ensure that the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was given a Chapter VII mandate and that an adequate number of troops were authorised. UNMISS will consist of up to 7,000 troops and 900 civilian police, as recommended by the UN Secretary-General. We will actively work to support the mandate and have encouraged the Government of South Sudan to do the same. The budget for UNMISS has yet to be agreed. When it is, the UK will contribute just over 8% of the total, as it does for all UN peacekeeping missions.

Sri Lanka

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on judicial independence in Sri Lanka. [68813]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports of increasing politicisation of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies. There are persistent allegations that prominent politicians are able to influence the judicial process.

Our high commission in Sri Lanka continue to monitor police and judicial action on high-profile cases, and raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government. We regularly encourage the Sri Lankan Government to strengthen democratic checks and balances, including with respect to the judiciary.

Our high commission funded a local civil society organisation to support the Sri Lankan Ministry of Justice's running of mediation boards at a local level throughout 2010. These boards provided an alternative method of resolving minor local disagreements without requiring complainants to go through an expensive legal process. Some 60% of cases referred to the mediation boards were resolved successfully.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to visit Sri Lanka. [68814]

Alistair Burt: There are no current plans for ministerial visits to Sri Lanka. The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) most recently visited Sri Lanka in July 2011, and I visited Colombo and Jaffna in February 2011.

Sri Lanka: Arrests

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest of a British citizen in July 2011 in Sri Lanka in relation to a Channel 4 programme. [68815]

Alistair Burt: Officials at our high commission in Sri Lanka provided consular assistance to the British national referred to by my hon. Friend, following notification on 5 July 2011 of his detention in Sri Lanka. This included visiting him to ensure that his welfare needs were being met and that he was being treated in line with internationally accepted standards. Consular officials also maintained regular contact with his family in the UK. He was released without charge on 2 August 2011.

Surveillance

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* voice, *(b)* e-mail and *(c)* web interceptions were carried out by agencies for which he is responsible in each month of the year to June 2011. [68188]

Alistair Burt: It is the policy of successive Governments not to comment on security and intelligence matters.

Taiwan: EU External Relations

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on an economic co-operation agreement between the EU and Taiwan. [68154]

Mr Lidington: We value the strong trade links we have with Taiwan and are keen to enhance them. The Government support active consideration of practical measures to strengthen trade between the EU and Taiwan.

Intercept Communications

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is in relation to the interception of voicemail by agencies for which he is responsible. [68187]

Alistair Burt: Intercept of communications, including voicemail, is governed in accordance with relevant legislation (predominantly the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000) and oversight is provided by the Rt. Hon. Sir Paul Kennedy, the Interception of Communications Commissioner (IoCC), who reports annually to Parliament. The most recent annual report by the IoCC was laid before Parliament on 30 June this year.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Government of Morocco, *(b)* Government of Algeria and *(c)* United Nations on the future governance and security of the Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [69084]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) met his Moroccan counterpart, Taieb Fassi Fihri, on 10 March 2011, when they discussed a range of issues including the future of Western Sahara. I visited both Morocco and Algeria in April this year where I raised the need for a political solution to the disputed territory's status in the context of April's United Nations Security Council negotiations on MINURSO's operations. Our ambassadors to Morocco and Algeria also discuss Western Sahara at a senior level with Moroccan and Algerian authorities.

UK officials at the UN meet regularly with other members of the Group of Friends of Western Sahara to discuss the future of Western Sahara. They are also in contact with the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Ambassador Christopher Ross and the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Ambassador Ross last briefed the Group of Friends on 27 July 2011. There are no plans to make a statement at this time.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the economic and political situation in Zimbabwe. [67374]

Mr Bellingham: There has been relatively little further progress on the ground since the last assessment I provided on this matter to my hon. Friend on 9 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 261W.

However, I am encouraged that South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have continued to work with the Zimbabwean parties to ensure the necessary reforms are completed so that elections, when held, do not see a repeat of the violence of 2008. So far, an agreed roadmap towards such elections has not appeared. But as confirmed at last week's SADC summit in Luanda, it remains the intended outcome of this work.

Until the conditions have been created for credible and properly monitored elections, the Inclusive Government continue to offer the most credible means of transforming Zimbabwe and we continue to encourage the whole Government to show a clear commitment to the reforms that the Zimbabwean people demanded in March 2008.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many senior civil servants in the Government Equalities Office at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each year since the Office's inception; what consultancy agreements the office had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised the Office in each such year. [68963]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has neither employed any senior civil servants who worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment, nor contracted any consultancy agreements with those firms, since its creation as a separate Department in October 2007.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many meetings she has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67165]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities meets with hon. Members on a regular basis, as part of the ongoing commitment to the work of the coalition Government. The Government Equalities Office is part of the Home Office and, as such, we have provided the figures for ministerial meetings across the whole Home Office.

Conservative: 41

Labour: 9

Liberal Democrats: 4.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* she and *(b)* officials of the Government Equalities Office have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67188]

Lynne Featherstone: No records are held of meeting requests that have been declined by either a Minister directly or by the Department on their behalf. There is currently no intention to keep such records.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many staff at the Equality and Human Rights Commission were entitled to work *(a)* full-time as trade union representatives and *(b)* part-time on trade union activities in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such staff received a salary greater than £25,900 per year; and what the total cost to the public purse was of employing such staff on such duties. [65984]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* The Equality and Human Rights Commission (The Commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided:

The Commission has:

(a) One member of staff currently working as a full-time trade union representative, funded by the Commission for three days per week and by the relevant trade union for two days per week; and

(b) No staff working part-time on trade union activities.

No member of staff working as a trade union representative receives a salary greater than £25,900.

The cost of employing the full-time member of staff on trade union duties is £24,960 annual salary plus £7,558 on costs comprising pension payments and national insurance contributions.

The total cost to the public purse is therefore £32,518.

Government Equalities Office

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in the Government Equalities Office (GEO) directly and *(b)* the GEO on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64429]

Lynne Featherstone: No records are held of meeting requests that have been declined by either a Minister directly or by the Government Equalities Office on their behalf.

Third Sector

Steve McCabe: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation visited by Ministers in the Government Equalities Office since 12 May 2010. [67672]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Since May 2010 the Minister for Women and Equalities, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has visited the following charitable or voluntary organisations:

Croydon Rape Crisis Centre

Haven Sexual Assault Referral Centre based at the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel

I have visited the following organisations:

- Action Aid
- Anawim Women's Community Project
- Lesbian and Gay Foundation
- Link (British transport lesbian gay and transgender support network)
- Manchester Action on Street Health
- National Stalking Helpline
- Solace
- Sparkle
- Stop Hate
- Survivors Manchester
- Women for Women
- Women's Business Forum
- Working Mums.

DEFENCE

3 Commando Brigade

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1215, on French and UK armed forces, what plans he has for the future of 3 Commando Brigade. [68503]

Nick Harvey: Decisions taken in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will reduce the Royal Marines' headcount by around 650 posts from its existing level of around 7,200 (a lower percentage cut than the Army, Navy or RAF are now facing) but these posts are not being taken from the 3 Commando Brigade headcount. The Brigade will certainly continue to exist and it will continue to contain the Brigade Headquarters and three commando groups plus supporting elements.

What has changed is the planned scale of advanced theatre entry, where we no longer plan to be able to land the full Brigade ashore early and sustain it from the sea, but rather to restrict this advanced capability to one commando group—around 1,800 personnel, which will be maintained at high readiness.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 52W, on unmanned air vehicles, what information his Department provided to *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Cabinet Office in advance of the Prime Minister's statement in December 2010 that over the previous 29 months the UK's drone fleet had killed 124 insurgents in Afghanistan. [67903]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* I am not aware that during the Prime Minister's visit to Afghanistan in December 2010 he made any reference to the number of insurgents killed by UK drones. Comprehensive figures are not recorded because of the immense difficulty and risks that would be involved in collecting robust data. Prior to the visit the Ministry of Defence briefed on the agreement to double the UK's Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft System capability and the state of the military campaign.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Ministers from other Government departments *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department met in relation to the RAF basing review; and what the date was of each such meeting. [68584]

Dr Fox: I meet with fellow Ministers from other Government Departments on a regular basis, including weekly at Cabinet, and I have discussed the Defence basing review with a number of them. I also discussed the basing review on a number of occasions with ministerial colleagues in the Ministry of Defence, and the Scottish Government including the First Minister for Scotland.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the training value per flying hour of aircraft stationed at *(a)* RAF Leuchars and *(b)* RAF Lossiemouth; and if he will make a statement. [68589]

Nick Harvey: All RAF flying sorties in the UK can provide a number of training opportunities such as aircraft handling or combat capability. The point of origin does not therefore determine the training value of the sortie.

Aircraft Carriers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the jet blast deflectors for the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers have been redesigned for the Joint Strike Fighter C variant. [68440]

Peter Luff: The design of jet blast deflectors is one of the factors being considered as part of our carrier variant (CV) conversion investigations, which are expected to conclude in late 2012.

The US is currently trialling their jet blast deflector design with the CV Joint Strike Fighter to ensure compatibility; we will learn from their results.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Queen Elizabeth Class carriers will be equipped with electro-magnetic catapults and traps. [68441]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1247W to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth).

Armed Forces: Alcoholic Drinks

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to address alcohol abuse among members and ex-members of the armed forces. [69147]

Mr Robathan: The armed forces run robust programmes designed to raise awareness and promote the message of sensible drinking. These programmes address all serving personnel; there are also additional measures in place to advise Commanding Officers of the potential danger to their people.

Individual consumption limits and the sale of alcohol are regulated, particularly, but not only, when personnel are serving operationally. These controls are supported by disciplinary measures.

Individuals identified as being at risk receive counselling and welfare support. More serious cases are treated through specialist medical and psychological treatment and rehabilitation, including where appropriate as in-patients.

The services are developing holistic programmes as part of an overarching healthy lifestyle strategy, including firm guidance on avoiding alcohol abuse and the encouragement of sensible drinking.

When a serviceman or woman leaves the armed forces they are given a range of literature including material on alcohol and drug awareness and are able to draw on the support of the Veterans Welfare Service for the rest of their lives.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular and *(b)* volunteer reserves of each rank in each of the armed forces were stationed in (i) Scotland, (ii) England, (iii) Wales, (iv) Northern Ireland and (v) overseas in each of the last 10 years. [68676]

Mr Robathan: Information for regular armed forces personnel, by service, rank, and geographical area will be placed in the Library of the House. This information is not available before 2007, as prior to the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration such data were not held. The information for reserve personnel is not held in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage greater use of UK-based food suppliers to provide supplies for the armed forces. [67310]

Peter Luff: European Union procurement legislation precludes public bodies from discriminating in favour of domestic food suppliers. However, Ministry of Defence officials are involved in a number of initiatives to support the British farming community and increase the volume of British produce purchased, by working with, for example, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, the Red Meat Industry Forum and British farming industry representatives.

The percentage of UK-produced goods fluctuates as a result of seasonality and value for money incentives. Some products are manufactured using a number of ingredients from various countries including the UK while others, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, are sourced seasonally from a variety of countries.

Armed Forces: Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Joint Air Strike Fighter to be available for use by the armed forces. [66906]

Peter Luff: While no specific in-service date has been set for the UK Joint Combat Aircraft, we will be able to deploy the aircraft from the carrier by 2020.

Armed Forces: Suicide

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many suicides among service personnel there have been in each year since 2000. [69151]

Mr Robathan: The following table lists those deaths between 2000 and 2010 (the latest date for which data are available) for coroner confirmed suicides or open verdict deaths.

	Confirmed suicides or open verdict
2000	36
2001	16
2002	15
2003	25
2004	20
2005	22
2006	11
2007	10
2008	9
2009	10
2010	5

BAE Systems

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to BAE Systems in each financial year since 2005-06. [67957]

Peter Luff: Payments made by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to BAE Systems since 2005-06 are shown in the following table:

Payments to BAE Systems

	£ billion
2005-06	2.4
2006-07	2.7
2007-08	3.0
2008-09	3.3
2009-10	3.9
2010-11	3.3

Note:
Figures are at current prices and exclude VAT.

The figure for 2010-11 is provisional and will be finalised in time for the publication of UK Defence Statistics in late September.

The payments reported have been extracted from the MOD's central contracts database on which is recorded the majority (about 95%) of all MOD payments. Payments not processed centrally are not included and may have been made on behalf of other Government Departments, by the MOD's Trading Funds and Executive non-departmental bodies (which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary), locally by the Department, through third parties such as prime contractors or other Government Departments and in relation to collaborative projects where the payments are made through international procurement agencies or overseas Governments.

From 2005-06, the individual subsidiaries and joint ventures relating to BAE Systems have been reproduced from the corporate structures as published in Table 1.17a of UK Defence Statistics.

Cadet Forces: Finance

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department allocated to the Air Training Corps in 2009-10; and how much he plans to allocate to it in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [68569]

(2) how much his Department allocated to the Army Cadet Force in 2009-10; and how much he plans to allocate to it in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [68570]

(3) how much his Department allocated to the Sea Cadets in 2009-10; and how much he plans to allocate to it in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [68571]

Mr Robathan: The funding allocated to the Cadet forces in each of the years requested is shown in the following table:

£ million

	FY 2009-10	*FY 2011-12*	*FY 2012-13*
Sea Cadet Corps	9.290	9.215	9.445
Army Cadet Force	47.133	48.636	49.852
Air Training Corps	21.910	22.676	22.569

The figures for the Army and Air Cadet forces for financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 are the latest forecasts for planning purposes and may alter in future financial planning rounds. The Sea Cadet Corps (SCC) is not part of the Royal Navy or the Ministry of Defence, although funding support is given in the form of a grant in aid to the Marine Society and Sea Cadets (MSSC). Each SCC unit is an independent charity but becomes a member of the Sea Cadet Corps by an act of affiliation with the MSSC, itself a charitable body.

Chief of the Defence Staff: Travel

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of travel by the *(a)* Chief of the Defence Staff and *(b)* Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff in the last 12 months. [66913]

Dr Fox: Since 1 July 2010, £50,390.91 and £9,581.94 has been spent on official travel by the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Vice-Chief of Defence Staff respectively.

Courts Martial

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the utilisation rate was of the No. 2 courts at the courts martial centres at *(a)* Bulford and *(b)* Catterick garrison in the latest period for which figures are available. [68445]

Nick Harvey: The utilisation rate, as a proportion of court time available, of the No. 2 courts at the military court centres at Bulford and Catterick during the period 11 January to 17 December 2010 was 4% and 9.2% respectively.

It should be noted that the No. 2 courts are smaller than the primary courts at each site. They were designed to be used when the primary courts reach full capacity and generally only for shorter proceedings such as preliminary or sentencing hearings.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to develop facilities for members of the armed forces at the Sovereign base areas on Cyprus. [69152]

Mr Robathan: A £42 million project to build 628 new single living spaces and refurbish two single living blocks at Episkopi and Akrotiri was completed last month. Construction of 269 replacement service families' accommodation, costing £75 million, is due to be completed at Akrotiri by 2016. Decompression facilities are kept under constant review, with the most recent developments being a welfare facility providing accommodation, a briefing area, gym, wi-fi, bar and stage. We are considering further areas where amenities can be enhanced for troops returning from operations. As with all projects these plans are subject to funding. There are also a number of non-publicly funded amenities available for the use of members of the armed forces in Cyprus.

Departmental Assets

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the monetary value of material assets ordered by his Department but which could not be delivered to the end user because of inadequate labelling in the latest period for which figures are available. [68524]

Peter Luff: In July 2011 assets to the value of £795,000 were received by the Ministry of Defence that will require corrections to the labelling before delivery to the end user. £123,000 worth had already been resolved as at 17 August 2011.

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means his Department identifies the location of its assets; and whether he plans to change the way his Department manages information on the location of its assets. [68525]

Peter Luff: Assets recorded on the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s non-current (fixed) asset register or on departmental inventory supply systems have an indicator which provides location information.

The MOD has a number of processes in place to confirm the location of its assets including: an annual physical verification of assets with a value in excess of £100,000; an annual census of land managed equipment and engineering assets; and a rolling four-year stocktaking programme.

The Department is currently halfway through an extensive improvement programme which aims to implement recommendations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General, regarding the management of certain asset and inventory items. This includes significant investment in IT systems which will help the Department to manage information on asset location more effectively.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* land, *(b)* property and *(c)* other assets his Department has sold since 2010; and how much it received for each sale. [69150]

Mr Robathan: A list detailing the land and property sold by the Ministry of Defence in the United Kingdom between January 2010 and July 2011, achieving gross sale proceeds in excess of £70 million, will be placed in the Library of the House. The list does not give details of individual recent site sales receipts, as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

The Disposal Services Authority (DSA) achieved £84 million in gross sales during 2010-11. This includes £4 million of repayment sales generated through the sale of stock items to other Governments holding the same type of equipment. Information of all the sales is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on repairs and maintenance of its properties in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [69148]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence spend on repair and maintenance is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Amount spent (£ million)*
2007-08	951
2008-09	989
2009-10	1,027

These figures include expenditure on housing, other living accommodation, office accommodation, grounds maintenance and the technical estate. This does not include expenditure on the maintenance of property provided through private finance initiatives where amounts cannot be separately identified from other elements of the service charge.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68960]

Mr Robathan: Only one member of the senior civil service was recruited from these companies in the period for which information is requested. The individual joined the Department in 2007 from KPMG as an SCS Pay Band 1 on a fixed-term appointment following an open competition. All appointments to the civil service are made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition in accordance with the Recruitment Principles laid down by the Civil Service Commission.

Central records show that over the past four years the Department has let consultancy contracts with these companies as follows:

	Number of contracts let—financial year			
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
PricewaterhouseCoopers	6	7	10	4
Ernst & Young	1	2	0	1
Deloitte	8	7	18	10
KPMG	2	9	1	3

Contracts were for external assistance and covered a wide range of subject matter reflecting the breadth of defence business. Areas included: Assistance with the Head Office Streamlining programme, the Logistics Sub-strategy for Defence, refinancing of Strategic Sea Lift and Information Systems Security.

The number of consultants deployed on contracts for external assistance is a commercial judgment for the contractor as we contract with consultancy companies to deliver a specific output at an agreed price rather than for a set number of personnel.

Contracts

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which suppliers have maintenance contracts with his Department; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [66916]

Peter Luff: The information is not held in a format which allows for distinction between maintenance suppliers and other suppliers; nor, therefore, is the value of each maintenance contract held.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68760]

Mr Robathan: During June 2011, the Ministry of Defence received 458 pieces of parliamentary correspondence from hon. Members, excluding requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act.

Departmental Land

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name, *(b)* location and *(c)* current market value is of all land his Department owns. [69149]

Mr Robathan: Details of all Ministry of Defence land holdings with asset valuation over £1 million, including sites in disposal, can be found in Chapter Seven of the National Asset Register, last published by HM Treasury in 2007:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm70/7022/7022.pdf

The National Asset Register is on a historic replacement cost basis, not market value. Details of all property with asset valuation below £1 million could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We do not routinely assess the current market value of all our estate because the estimated receipts will depend on market conditions and other factors at the time of sale. Where pre-sale valuations have been obtained, these are regarded as commercially confidential and are thus not released ahead of the sale in case they influence the market.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67244]

Peter Luff: Since 1 April 2011 all of the Ministry of Defence's eligible contract opportunities have been advertised on Contracts Finder.

Expenditure: Equipment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to what expenditure on equipment his Department is committed over the next 15 years; and with whom the commitments have been entered into. [66904]

Peter Luff: The Department has calculated its contractual commitments in respect of defence equipment procurement (excluding contracts for equipment support) at some £23 billion over the next 10 years (2012-13 to 2021-22). The information beyond 10 years and a detailed breakdown of the contractors with whom commitments have been entered into could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on MOD contracts let after 1 January 2011 is available online via the pan-Government Contracts Finder website at:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/

Security

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future security provision for his Department's sites. [68720]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence keeps its policies and requirements for guarding and civil policing under regular review. We continue to attach very high importance to safeguarding our people, information and assets' and we will therefore continue to maintain effective and proportionate levels of security at all of our sites.

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Medals

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect on morale of members of the armed forces ineligible to receive a Diamond Jubilee Medal because they will have served for less than five full calendar years on 6 February 2012; [69141]

(2) for what reason members of the armed forces who will have served for less than five full calendar years on 6 February 2012 are not eligible for the award of the Diamond Jubilee Medal. [69142]

Mr Robathan: No assessment has been made on the potential effect on morale of members of the armed forces ineligible to receive the commemorative Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The Department for Culture, Olympics, Media, and Sport announced that the criterion of five years service on 6 February 2012 had been approved by Her Majesty the Queen. This requirement is consistent with the approach used in 2002 when determining eligibility for the Golden Jubilee Medal, and with other key front line services such as the prison service, the police, and fire and rescue services.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost implications of the change in timetable of the development programme for the Typhoon aircraft to enable weapons capabilities. [66896]

Peter Luff: The Typhoon future capabilities programme is planned to provide enhancements to Typhoon in the air-to-air and air-to-ground roles. The first stage in the development programme for Typhoon's new weapons capabilities is the future capability programme contract, which was signed in 2007. Further weapons upgrades are under consideration to enable Typhoon to employ a greater variety of air-to-ground munitions in future. Project information about Typhoon, including cost and time, is available in the Major Projects Report. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of transferring the Typhoon force from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth; [68585]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of operating the Typhoon force from *(a)* RAF Lossiemouth and *(b)* RAF Leuchars over a 25-year period; whether his Department revised its estimate of such costs during the basing review process; and if he will make a statement. [68590]

Nick Harvey: The estimated relative cost of operating the Typhoon force from RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leuchars over a 25-year period, including the costs of transferring from Leuchars to Lossiemouth, is approximately £604 million and £565 million respectively. The costs were refined and updated during the course of the basing review, as is usual in such a process. They will be refined further during detailed planning for the implementation of the Defence basing decisions.

In taking these decisions, the balance of financial advantage between Leuchars or Lossiemouth as RAF bases was outweighed by wider Defence considerations. These included the necessity to establish a coherent plan for basing the Army following its return from Germany and the need to realise receipts by disposing of high-value estate, including in Edinburgh, while ensuring the build-up of the Typhoon force.

European Union: Medals

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military service personnel have received EU service medals to date. [68784]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ex-services personnel are in prison custody; and what proportion of the total prison population that figure represents. [69156]

Mr Robathan: We currently estimate that there are around 3,000 former service personnel in prison custody, representing some 3.5% of the total prison population. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Lord Astor of Hever, to the noble Baroness, Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen, in another place on 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column WA 214, regarding the Howard League's Independent Inquiry into Former Armed Service Personnel in Prison.

Germany: Armed Forces

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces who are based in Germany are family units; and how many live in accommodation outside their base. [68504]

Nick Harvey: As of 31 March 2011, 9,122 service family accommodation properties in Germany were occupied.

Information on family units and how many members of the armed forces live in accommodation outside the base is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 643, on defence transformation, what type of accommodation service personnel based in Germany will be moved into by 2015. [68505]

Nick Harvey: Service personnel are provided with accommodation in accordance with the entitlements set out in the Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations, published as Joint Service Publication 464, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

It is too early to say at this time exactly which bases personnel currently based in Germany may be moved to, or what type of accommodation may be required.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* expenditure made and *(b)* further expenditure required from the public purse to enable the Joint Strike Fighter to become available. [66907]

Peter Luff: The total expenditure undertaken on the Joint Strike Fighter is £1,825 million. The Ministry of Defence does not publish estimates of the costs of programmes as to do so would prejudice commercial interests.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the costs of the Joint Strike Fighter project has been provided by his Department. [66908]

Peter Luff: The United Kingdom has spent £1,825 million to date on the Joint Strike Fighter. All of this spend has come from the Ministry of Defence budget.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether non-US companies will be eligible to tender for maintenance contracts for the Joint Strike Fighter following its delivery. [66909]

Peter Luff: The terms of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Production, Sustainment and Follow-on Development Memorandum of Understanding are very clear in that all JSF industrial work, whether production or maintenance and support, will be awarded to companies providing a competitive best-value bid, regardless of nationality. UK companies have already won JSF production contracts worth 15% by value of the work on each aircraft and are therefore well placed to win future maintenance and support work.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to send *(a)* a Type 45 destroyer and *(b)* HMS Illustrious to aid in Operation Ellamy. [68438]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence regularly reviews the plans for our continuing naval support to Operation Ellamy. We are considering a number of options and nothing has been finalised at this time.

Libya: Military Aircrafts

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fast jet aircraft deployed in Libya are unusable due to a lack of parts or supplies. [66895]

Peter Luff: There are currently six Typhoons and 16 Tornados deployed to Italy in support of operations in Libya. Since current operations commenced and up to 15 August 2011, our fast jets have not had to cancel any of their planned sorties due to a lack of parts or supplies.

At any given time, it may be necessary to withdraw aircraft from operations in order to carry out routine maintenance and mandated flight checks. However, we continue to conduct operations at a high tempo, consistent with our commitment to meeting NATO's mission objectives. Typhoon aircraft have exceeded expectations of serviceability allowing the UK to play a key part in the NATO operations protecting the civilian population of Libya. Our ability to maintain aircraft availability is attributable to the professionalism of our service personnel and civilian support staff, together with robust air and road supply lines from the UK.

Libya: UN Resolutions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Libya; and if he will make a statement. [68457]

Dr Fox: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and other ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

The United Kingdom has a National Action Plan (NAP), owned jointly by the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Department for International Development, for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325).

The NAP on UNSCR1325 Women, Peace and Security was revised in November 2010.

The UK has regular discussions with the Libyan National Transitional Council both bilaterally and through the Libya Contact Group. This includes their stabilisation plan and draft constitution for the future of all Libyan people.

Military Aircraft: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will issue the Request for Proposals for the UK Military Flying Training Systems; what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the contract; and where the training will take place for each aircraft type. [69087]

Peter Luff: Ascent Flight Training, the Ministry of Defence's training system partner, is due to issue the detailed request for proposals to continue the aircraft service provision competition, as part of the UK Military Flying Training System programme, in December 2011. I am withholding the information on the estimated value of the contract as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. Until the competition is complete, I cannot confirm where the training for each aircraft type will take place.

Military Bases: Crime

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criminal injuries compensation is available to British citizens who are the victims of crime committed by other British citizens at UK military bases overseas. [68978]

Mr Robathan: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), an agency of the Ministry of Justice, assists UK residents to apply for compensation if they were injured because of a criminal injury in another European Union country on or after 1 July 2005. This assistance includes the provision of information about the system of compensation in the country where they were injured; application forms; help with any other documents they might have to provide; help sending completed forms to the right place; and advice if they are asked for further information.

The Ministry of Defence operates a non-statutory scheme, the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Overseas) Scheme (CIC(O)), which pays compensation to service personnel and their accompanying dependants who are based overseas who are the innocent victims of crimes of violence. CIC(O) is a scheme of last resort and as such claimants are eligible only if no other scheme offers compensation.

Military Bases: Edinburgh

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the monetary value of *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Dreghorn and *(c)* Redford barracks in Edinburgh. [69090]

Mr Robathan: The estimated receipts for these sites will depend on market conditions and other factors at the time of sale (by 2014-15 at the latest). Where pre-sale valuations are obtained, these are regarded as commercially confidential and are not released ahead of the sale as they could influence the market.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likelihood of achieving a favourable sale price for Craigiehall Camp. [69165]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence must sell its surplus estate in accordance with Treasury guidelines which require it to get the best price reasonably obtainable (i.e. market value) normally through open competition—unless it is required by other public bodies (e.g. Scottish Government) or there are former owner (Crichel Down) considerations.

The actual value will be determined by the market at the time of sale which is not due until 2014-15.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect on local businesses of the closure of *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Dreghorn and *(c)* Redford bases. [69167]

Mr Robathan: As the Secretary of State said in his written ministerial statement on basing on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 66-70WS, we:

> "recognised that Defence decisions have broader regional, economic and social consequences".

However, we have been very clear and consistent throughout the basing review that the paramount criteria must be what makes overall sense for Defence. We will make more efficient use of the existing Defence estate by using bases that are otherwise underused, such as Kirknewton, and realising receipts from high-value sites, such as Dreghorn, Craigiehall and Redford Barracks. It makes military and financial sense to consolidate on fewer, larger sites. But our rebasing plan may, regrettably, mean a reduction in Defence-related economic activity for some communities and local businesses. We will continue to consult with the Scottish Secretary, the

Scottish Government and other partners to see how any harmful socio-economic impacts that may result might be minimised, including in Edinburgh.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans his Department has made for the redeployment of army personnel from *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Dreghorn and *(c)* Redford bases; [69168]

(2) how many of the army personnel at *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Dreghorn and *(c)* Redford he expects to be made redundant; [69169]

(3) when his Department notified army personnel at *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Dreghorn and *(c)* Redford of its intention to close each base. [69172]

Mr Robathan: There will be no military redundancies as a direct result of the closure of Craigiehall, Dreghorn and Redford Barracks. However, it is possible that some military personnel currently stationed at these locations may be made redundant under the Army Redundancy Programme, which concludes in 2015. Military personnel serving in Craigiehall, Dreghorn and Redford will be posted to other units in accordance with the usual military postings procedure.

The Ministry of Defence notified Army personnel at each of the three bases of its intention to close each base as soon as was practicably possible following the announcement to the House on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox).

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of army personnel housing at *(a)* Dreghorn and *(b)* Redford his Department (i) owns and (ii) rents. [69170]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently holds 546 service family accommodation properties in Edinburgh to accommodate personnel and their families based at various units. Of this total, 244 properties are located at Dreghorn, 224 at Redford, and 78 at South Queensferry.

The MOD owns all but 103 of the properties in Edinburgh. These are provided under a private finance initiative agreement with Bannockburn Homes Ltd with 43 at Dreghorn and 60 at Redford.

There is currently no substitute service families accommodation (that is, privately rented accommodation) in Edinburgh.

Military Bases: Kirknewton

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will visit Kirknewton to discuss the proposed army base with the hon. Member for Livingston and local residents; [68930]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* West Lothian council and *(b)* the City of Edinburgh council regarding the proposed army base at Kirknewton. [68937]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), discussed the basing review with Ministers in the Scotland Office and the Scottish Government, including the First Minister. These discussions took into account the proposed creation of an Army base at Kirknewton. As he said in his written ministerial statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 66-70WS, we will now begin the process of detailed planning and the appropriate and necessary engagement with the affected local authorities, including the above councils.

While there are no plans at present for the Defence Secretary to visit Kirknewton, we believe it is important that Defence Ministers regularly visit defence sites across the United Kingdom, including in Scotland, and we will continue to look for opportunities to do so.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the proposed army base at Kirknewton is expected to become fully operational; [68932]

(2) how many troops will be stationed at the proposed army base at Kirknewton once it is fully operational; [68933]

(3) when he plans to publish further details of the timetable for establishing an army base at Kirknewton. [68938]

Nick Harvey: The announcement made by the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, set out our strategic long-term direction on the structure of the Army and its basing requirements across the United Kingdom. Comprehensive planning work is now under way to understand and draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of the Army moves.

It is therefore too early to confirm exact details on timelines and the number of personnel who will be based at Kirknewton.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of establishing an army base at Kirknewton; [68934]

(2) whether his Department will provide funding to local authorities to upgrade infrastructure around the proposed army base at Kirknewton. [68935]

Mr Robathan: Comprehensive planning work, including a detailed assessment of the investment required to adapt the Kirknewton site is currently under way.

It would therefore be premature at this stage to comment on provision of central Government funding to the local authorities.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means the local community will be consulted on plans to establish an army base at Kirknewton. [68936]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend, the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-66, where he announced that we will now begin the process of detailed planning and the appropriate and necessary engagement with the affected local authorities and communities, including Kirknewton.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation will prepare a Sustainability Appraisal (including any environmental assessments required) and a Master Plan for the site that will be used as a basis for informal and formal consultation with the officials from the Scottish Government, local authorities and the wider community. This will be followed by formal planning applications and public consultation for the redevelopment of the site. The exact means we will use to consult will be agreed in due course.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of building new barracks at Kirknewton, West Lothian. [69164]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is not able to provide a cost estimate at this time. Occupation of Kirknewton will not begin until 2016-17 and planning will commence later in this financial year.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the *(a)* local infrastructure of, *(b)* requirement of school provision in and *(c)* requirement for school transport in Kirknewton, West Lothian, of the establishment of an army base. [69166]

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the *(a)* local economy and *(b)* local environment of the proposed army base at Kirknewton. [68931]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State's 18 July announcement set out our strategic long-term direction on basing across the United Kingdom. As he said in his written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, columns 66-70WS), we "recognised that Defence decisions have broader regional, economic and social consequences".

Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up detailed plans for the future of Kirknewton, which will include an assessment of the likely effect on local infrastructure, school provision and school transport, as well as Kirknewton's broader local economy and environment. This will involve the appropriate and necessary engagement with partners such as the Scottish Government, West Lothian council and the relevant other Government Departments and agencies. We have a shared interest in managing local issues, such as schooling and transport, as effectively as we can for the benefit of both the local community and for our own personnel.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors led his Department to select Kirknewton, West Lothian, as a suitable site for a new army base; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each relevant document. [69171]

Mr Robathan: The announcement made by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, set out our strategic long-term direction on basing across the United Kingdom. The intent of the review was to deliver a basing plan that would accommodate the Army units returning from Germany; a geographical footprint that delivered the operational and personnel requirements of multi-role brigades, that made most efficient use of the existing Defence estate by using bases that are otherwise underused such as Kirknewton; and realising receipts from the sale of high-value sites no longer required. Kirknewton is one element of the overall solution we identified that offered best value for money, met these requirements, and will offer the Ministry of Defence flexibility in planning the return of the Army from Germany.

Military Bases: Property Transfer

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any accommodation disposed of by his Department as a result of the basing review will be made available to local authorities for social housing. [69089]

Mr Robathan: It is departmental policy to work closely with the Homes and Communities Agency, local authorities and devolved Administrations (including the Scottish Housing Executive) when identifying the strategy for each disposal. Transfers to other public bodies and registered social landlords are made at market value in accordance with Treasury guidelines.

National Security Council

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role and responsibilities he has in relation to the National Security Council; and what recent contribution he has made to its work. [67418]

Dr Fox: I am a member of the National Security Council which meets regularly, in some cases several times a week. I contribute fully to the consideration of the wide-ranging domestic and international security questions tackled by the National Security Council.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate how much of the contract for the Common Missile Compartment design was spent in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and how many jobs have resulted from the contract in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland. [68439]

Peter Luff: The United Kingdom participates in a cost-sharing agreement with the United States for the design and development of the Common Missile Compartment. In 2008, the US Department of Defense, who are managing this work area, awarded a contract to General Dynamics Electric Boat for the design and development work.

I understand the company has sub-contracted work to a number of firms based in the United Kingdom but we do not hold the information requested. It is not Government policy to compile statistics related to defence spend on equipment or employment by UK regions.

Property Transfer

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property his Department has *(a)* transferred to a local authority, *(b)* transferred to the social housing sector and *(c)* sold privately in each of the last 10 years. [69091]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the land and property transferred by the Ministry of Defence in the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 financial years to other public bodies, registered social landlords and private purchasers has been placed in the Library of the House. We do not hold records centrally for 2001-02 and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carriers

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason documents supporting the decision to continue the construction of the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers have not been provided to the National Audit Office. [67314]

Peter Luff: The National Audit Office has acknowledged that they had access to all departmental papers on Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers to inform their recent study on the value for money of Carrier Strike.

RAF Buchan

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how his Department disposed of *(a)* on-base and *(b)* off-base accommodation following the drawdown and closure of RAF Buchan. [69092]

Mr Robathan: Following the closure of RAF Buchan in 2005, there was an application from a local community group to acquire the domestic site under the Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003. The group only bought the playing field. Their application for the domestic site was withdrawn before the sale of accommodation took place. As a result, the surplus accommodation was sold on the open market between 2005 and 2008.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 644WS, on defence transformation, what timetable is in place for *(a)* the draw-down of the Typhoon force from RAF Leuchars and *(b)* the arrival of army units and a formation headquarters. [68586]

Nick Harvey: As the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), made clear in his announcement on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 66-70WS, further work will be done to draw up individual project plans and determine the timing and sequencing of the Army moves. Therefore, while our aim is to move a headquarters to Leuchars before 2015 with two major units thereafter, in 2015-17, I am unable to provide a more detailed programme for Leuchars at this stage.

Having decided that we will build up the Typhoon force at Lossiemouth, we will start preparing the infrastructure at Lossiemouth to receive the Typhoon force straight away. The build-up will take place over time and Leuchars will remain a working RAF base until 2014. So we hope to ensure continuity of the military presence in Fife, and minimise the impact on the local economy of these changes.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 41W, on RAF Leuchars, if he will place in the Library the assessment of the performance of the RAF Leuchars Quick Reaction Alert Force. [68587]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability or effectiveness of the armed forces.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many private contractors are employed at RAF Leuchars on the delivery of Typhoon operations. [68588]

Nick Harvey: As at 20 July 2011, there were 25 personnel from four contractors employed in direct support of Typhoon operations at RAF Leuchars.

Type 26 Frigates

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* expressions of interest he has received from other countries on the procurement of the Global Combat Ship. [69088]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), gave on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 867W, to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon).

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the performance of current unmanned combat air vehicles; and for what reasons it is proposed to continue with the future unmanned combat air vehicle project. [66910]

Peter Luff: Analysis to date has indicated that unmanned combat air systems (UCAS), in combination with manned systems, could form part of a cost effective solution for future air-to-air and air-to-ground combat roles. Ongoing research is focused on developing concepts and assessing their performance with a view to shaping a future UCAS programme. Such work includes the Taranis technology demonstrator, which the Ministry of Defence is developing in partnership with a BAE Systems-led industry team.

War Memorials

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department of *(a)* creating and *(b)* maintaining war memorials in the UK has been in each year since 2000. [69154]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not have responsibility for war memorials. This responsibility rests with the owner of the memorial, which is normally a local authority, a private individual or organisation.

Warships

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned in-service dates are for each of the *(a)* Astute-class submarines and *(b)* Type 45 destroyers which have yet to join the fleet. [68307]

Peter Luff: The First of Class, HMS Astute, achieved its in-service date in April 2010 and is currently undertaking a period of extensive and comprehensive sea trials before being handed over to the Royal Navy for operational service, which on current plans will be in late 2012.

The planned in-service dates for the remainder of the Astute class boats are:

	Year
Boat 2 (Ambush)	2013
Boat 3 (Artful)	2015
Boat 4 (Audacious)	2018
Boat 5	2020
Boat 6	2022
Boat 7	2024

The planned in-service dates for the Type 45 destroyers which have yet to join the fleet are:

	Year
Dragon	2012
Defender	2013
Duncan	2014

Warships: Helicopters

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which vessels will be available to serve as landing platform (helicopter) ships from 2020 onwards. [68309]

Peter Luff: The means for delivering our landing platform helicopter capability after 2020 have not yet been decided, nor has the eventual out-of-service date of HMS Ocean, which provides the current capability. These decisions will be influenced by the evolving plan for the introduction into service of the new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers.

Warships: Weapons

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the replacement of existing warship guns by ones of 155mm; and if he will make a statement on his policy, with special reference to *(a)* the future frigate fleet and *(b)* Type 45 destroyers. [68308]

Peter Luff: No decision on the calibre of the new Maritime Indirect Fire System (the new naval gun) has yet been made. This will be taken when work to consider the available options under the Future Maritime Fires Concept Phase is complete in around mid-2012.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits Rules

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the individuals in households he estimates will be affected by his proposed cap on welfare benefit entitlements are *(a)* children and *(b)* adults. [68699]

Chris Grayling: The introduction of the household benefit cap is intended to achieve long-term positive behavioural effects through changed attitudes to welfare, responsible life choices and strong work incentives.

In the equality impact assessment we published in March 2011, we showed the number of households affected, and the division of those households by number of children. From this, it is estimated that the households affected by the cap will contain fewer than 100,000 adults, and approximately 200,000 children.

We have announced that we are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition of work will be used when applying the proposed benefit cap. [68296]

Chris Grayling: We are introducing the benefit cap to promote fairness between those in and out of work and to increase incentives for people to move into work or increase their hours of employment. In support of these objectives, households which contain a member who is eligible for working tax credit will be exempt from the cap. We are still considering the precise criteria for a corresponding exemption under universal credit.

Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66746]

Chris Grayling: It is estimated that Department for Work and Pensions non-weather corrected emissions for its office estate and business travel amounted to 14,177,678 kg CO_2 for June 2010.

The Department for Work and Pensions is still collating and validating its emission data for June 2011. However it is estimated that its non-weather corrected emissions for June 2011 will amount to some 12,759,910 kg CO_2.

Estates information for 2010-11 is based on data collected quarterly. DWP moved to collecting data on a monthly basis from April 2011.

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of queries to the Child Support Agency were responded to within 15 working days in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [68235]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what percentage of queries to the Child Support Agency were responded to within 15 working days in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010. [68235]

We tried to contact your office to clarify your question as the Child Support Agency does not record the percentage of queries that are responded to within 15 days.

We have instead interpreted your question as what percentage of complaints to the Child Support Agency were either fully resolved or had a resolution plan in place within 15 days. The percentage of complaints that were fully resolved and/or with a resolution plan in place within 15 working days of receipt in the year ending March 2011 was 99.2%. This is an increase from 98.5% in the year ending March 2010 and 97.1% in the year ending March 2009.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child: Maintenance

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 237-38W, on Child Support Agency, when he plans to consult on his proposals to introduce a new variations system as part of the proposed new child maintenance scheme. [68170]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2011, Official Report, columns 237-8W, on Child Support Agency, when he plans to consult on his proposals to introduce a new variations system as part of the proposed new child maintenance scheme. [68170]

Variations rules will be included in a set of draft regulations dealing with maintenance calculations for the new statutory scheme, which we plan to launch in 2012. These regulations will be subject to public consultation, which we are intending to announce in due course. Following that the regulations, which will be affirmative, will be introduced into Parliament for consideration.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 586, on Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, for what reasons performance indicators for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for 2011-12 do not mention the collection of child maintenance arrears. [68436]

Maria Miller: It has become clear since the coalition Government took office that we need to understand fully the deep legacy of CSA arrears which have accumulated over 18 years. We have set up an independent panel to look at arrears and provide advice on how arrears of child maintenance might be dealt with most effectively in the long term. Once we have considered that advice we will decide what indicator would be appropriate for the collection of arrears.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what models for integrating child maintenance into local services are being tested by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; what the timetable is for testing such models; and where such models are being tested. [68437]

Maria Miller: The Government's response to their consultation on the future of child maintenance was published on 12 July. This sets out the Government's next steps for taking forward their plans for joining up the existing specialist and local support available to separating and separated families, so that more parents are able to work together to reach agreements for financial support of their children following separation.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is already engaging with local authorities, voluntary and community groups to encourage them to promote messages around child maintenance as part of their own information services.

Since the beginning of 2011, the Commission established local projects to explore how support on child maintenance can be integrated into pre-existing local hubs. In Ashington in Northumberland, support on child maintenance is being delivered in a children's centre where other services are offered. A similar project has started in children's centres in Essex with the key difference that parents of children aged up to 19 use these centres. In Nottingham, we are looking at how our services can be integrated into wider local authority support provision including health, youth and community services.

The results of these projects will be measured and judged by the Commission throughout the year.

Community Care Grants

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to issue guidance to local authorities on developing local support to replace community care grants; and whether he plans to consult *(a)* third sector organisations, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* national customer representative groups in developing such guidance. [68090]

Steve Webb: We are already discussing with the Local Government Association, individual local authorities and national customer representative groups which aspects of the new service they are seeking guidance on and how this can best be delivered. We are continuing to do so over the coming months, and we will be publishing our early findings in the autumn.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67920]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State has travelled on the following flights during the last 12 months (1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011).

Departure date	*Journey (returns)*	*Class*	*Budget airline?*
2 September 2010	Belfast-London	Economy	No
22 September 2010	Edinburgh-London	Economy	No
9 February 2011	Glasgow-London	Economy	No
19 May 2011	Glasgow-London	Economy	Yes

It should be noted that all of the above flights are compliant with DWP's current travel policy. This specifies that:

The most cost-effective travel option in line with business needs must always be sought.

Air travel cannot be used for journeys under 300 miles.

Air travel is prohibited between Manchester/London, Newcastle/London, and Birmingham/Newcastle.

Economy class must be booked for any flight under 2½ hours.

Expenditure on air travel has fallen by 59% from 2009-10 to 2010-11, due to aggressive management of the demand for travel within the Department and a specific initiative to ensure a modal shift from air to less polluting modes of transport.

The Department has a ban on the use of first-class travel and asks staff to focus on minimising travel by using facilities such as video conferencing instead.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68946]

Chris Grayling: As far as our records show, in the financial year 2009-10 we employed one senior civil servant at grade Pay Band 1 directly from PricewaterhouseCoopers; otherwise no other senior civil servants in the years in question were employed by these companies directly before taking up appointment with the DWP.

Information relating to the agreements DWP had with those firms in each such year has been placed in the Library.

DWP typically pays for consultancy projects via a fixed fee based on defined outcomes/deliverables therefore we are unable to quantify the number of consultants. The consultancy supplier is expected to provide the requisite resource in order for the project deliverables to be achieved at the expected quality within the agreed timescales. This approach ensures the provider is fully responsible for the resources required to deliver the assignment and minimises the commercial risk to DWP.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68790]

Chris Grayling: The information cannot be made available in the format requested other than at disproportionate cost as letters may be received from hon. Members at any of the Department's offices.

The number of pieces of correspondence from hon. Members addressed to Ministers received in the Department in June 2011 is 1,962. Correspondence includes letters, emails and facsimiles.

The Permanent Secretary received two pieces of correspondence directly from hon. Members during June 2011.

The chief executive of Jobcentre Plus received 105 pieces of correspondence directly from hon. Members during June 2011.

The chief executive of the Pension Disability and Carers Service received 166 pieces of correspondence directly from hon. Members during June 2011.

The commissioner and chief executive of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission received three pieces of correspondence directly from hon. Members during June 2011. In addition, the Child Support Agency received 478 pieces of correspondence directly from hon. Members during June 2011.

NDPB Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010; [66322]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66339]

Chris Grayling: The Government introduced a recruitment freeze across all civil service departments and their non-departmental bodies from 24 May 2010. Frontline and business critical posts and the civil service fast stream are exempt from the recruitment freeze; however, specific departmental approval is required for these exemptions.

The number of people recruited since May 2010 is shown in the following table. These figures include recruitment authorised under exemptions to the freeze and where legally binding job offers had been made prior to the freeze commencing.

Recruitment

	Permanent	*Fixed-term appointment*	*Temporary*[1]	*Total*
Department and its agencies	94	220	141	455

	Recruitment			
	Permanent	Fixed-term appointment	Temporary[1]	Total
Non-departmental public bodies[2]				
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	55	516	—	571
Health and Safety Executive	120	19	—	139
Independent Living Fund	—	—	—	0
The Pensions Advisory Service[3]	5	*	—	*
The Pensions Regulator	40	23	37	100
Pensions Ombudsman[3]	*	*	—	*
National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) Corporation[4]	—	143	—	143
Pension Protection Fund	22	18	—	40
Remploy Ltd	12	150	—	162

[1] Temporary staff are staff on the departmental payroll who have been hired on short-term casual contracts.

[2] The following non-departmental bodies do not employ staff:
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board
Equality 2025
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council
Social Security Advisory Committee

[3] Numbers less than five or totals resulting from component numbers less than five are represented by *.

[4] The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority was wound up on the 5 July 2010 and its functions transferred to its successor body—NEST Corporation.

Since May 2010 there have been a number of group and individual early release schemes as set out as follows. Early releases were subject to governance processes designed to ensure that they support business objectives and represent value for money.

	Number of people leaving under early release schemes	Cost (£ million)
Department and its agencies	1,563	70.9

1,069 people and £49.7 million of the figures above relate to a recent early release scheme where figures are still to be reconciled for accounting purposes. This may lead to some slight amendments to the figures.

Non-departmental public bodies	Number of people leaving under early releases schemes	Cost (£ million)
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	57	3.3
Health and Safety Executive	200	8.7
Pensions Ombudsman	0	0
National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) Corporation	0	0
Remploy Ltd	705	19.2

The following non-departmental bodies each had less than five early releases. In order to protect individual personal information the costs have been totalled.

	Number of people leaving under early releases schemes	Cost (£)
Independent Living Fund	[1]6	[1]458,312
The Pensions Advisory Service	[1]—	[1]—
The Pensions Regulator	[1]—	[1]—
Pension Protection Fund	[1]—	[1]—
Total	6	458,312

[1] Indicates brace

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67225]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions' IT system and procurement contract repository are not currently configured to report on the proportion of procurement contracts that the Department awards to small businesses. However, we are in the process of delivering this capability and expect completion by the end of the 2011-12 financial year.

During the period 1 May 2010 to 30 June 2011, the Department spent a total of £726.5 million with known small business suppliers. This represents 14.2% of our commercial spending in the period.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67226]

Chris Grayling: Since its inception and to 30 June 2011, the Department for Work and Pensions has published 28 invitations to tender documents and 24 contract award documents on the Contracts Finder website. We are currently undertaking a review to ensure we have published 100% of our reportable contracts on the site. This review should be completed by the 1 October 2011.

Redundancy

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many employees of *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* his Department have been made redundant in each month since May 2010; and how many such redundancies were (i) voluntary and (ii) compulsory; [68968]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancy notices that will be issued to employees of *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* his Department between July 2011 and December 2012. [68969]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010 a total of 1,563 members of staff have left the Department and its agencies under early release schemes. 506 of these have been from Jobcentre Plus.

All early releases have been on a voluntary basis, there have been no compulsory redundancies. Releases were all subject to governance processes designed to ensure that they supported business objectives and represented value for money.

Over the period, the Department and its agencies have collectively run three voluntary early release schemes. The following table shows the months in which the resulting releases took place:

Month of leaving	*Jobcentre Plus*	*DWP and other agencies*	*DWP total*
October 2010	70	117	187
January 2011	0	307	307
June 2011	436	633	1,069
Total	506	1,057	1,563

Each scheme had a common leaving date as shown; however, a small number of staff had later leaving dates for business reasons.

Figures relating to the June early release scheme are still to be reconciled for accounting purposes. This may lead to some slight amendments to the figures. The Department plans to realise substantial efficiency savings over the period of the spending review 2011-12 to 2014-15 through measures which will deliver both savings and improved customer service, as well as focussing its resources on key reforms of the welfare system. These plans may lead to offers of voluntary exit, voluntary redundancy or, if absolutely necessary, the use of compulsory redundancy at some time in the future.

Work force planning is currently in hand and it is not feasible to provide firm estimates on numbers or timescales at this stage. In some areas plans are more advanced and where this is the case indications are that we may need to manage up to 1,850 early releases over the next two financial years. This figure is subject to ongoing review and may change.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68548]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) operates several telephone helplines and service lines. These are spread across the different businesses within DWP. It has not been possible to provide a detailed breakdown of funding for each service line, as many DWP people are multi-skilled, either across several service lines and helplines or they perform both telephony and processing duties. All of our external telephone numbers are available on:

www.direct.gov.uk

The information provided is by business.

Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate (CCD) operates 20 service lines:

First Contact—where members of the public contact us to make a new claim to benefit;

Crisis Loans (for living expenses)—where claimants contact us to apply for a crisis loan;

Employer Direct—where employers contact us to place a vacancy;

National Insurance Number (NINO) Allocation—where people without a NINO can apply for one;

National Benefit Fraud Hotline—where members of the public report claimants for suspected benefit fraud;

Tax Evasion Hotline—is operated by Jobcentre Plus on behalf of HMRC, members of the public report people for suspected tax evasion;

Local Authority Fraud—is operated by Jobcentre Plus on behalf of local authorities, members of the public report people for suspected housing benefit or council tax benefit fraud;

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) Benefit Inquiry Line—JSA claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an inquiry about their claim;

Income Support (IS) Benefit Inquiry Line—IS claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an inquiry about their claim;

Incapacity Benefit (IB) Inquiry Line—IB claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an inquiry about their claim;

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Inquiry Line—ESA claimants can report a change of circumstances or make an inquiry about their claim;

Maternity Allowance—where members of the public contact us to make a new claim to maternity allowance;

Overseas Vacancy Team—where employers contact us to place a vacancy outside of the UK;

International Jobsearch Advice—is for members of the public who want information about working and living abroad;

Jobseeker Direct—members of the public can call to look for jobs or obtain more information about a particular vacancy they have found;

Self Service Helpdesk—technical support for customers who are having difficulty making an application to benefit online;

UK Borders Agency Immigration Inquiry Bureau—Jobcentre Plus are currently running a proof of concept exercise in partnership with UKBA taking some of their calls dealing with inquiries from immigration and emigration;

E-Business Operational Support Team—technical support for employers who are having difficulty placing a vacancy online; and

Small and Medium Business Recruitment Helpline—offers advice and support to small and medium-sized businesses and guides them through the recruitment process.

The overall budget for this year is £212.3 million and this is broken down into £197.8 million for staff costs and £14.5 million for non-staff costs. CCD agents are multi-skilled, which means that they answer calls across multiple service lines. This means that they are unable to provide a breakdown of funding per service line. CCD agents do not undertake any duties other than telephony.

Shared Services

Shared Services are split into three areas: Purchase to Pay and Payment Resolution Service, Employee Services and Debt Management.

Purchase to Pay and Payment Resolution Service operates three service lines and helplines:

Purchase to Pay Helpline—is for suppliers relating to queries around payments for goods and services. It also receives calls from Jobcentre Plus advisers and claimants seeking clarification on payments made to support people back to work. This line is operated by approximately 13 staff and costs £290,000 per annum.

Bank Liaison Section—is an internal helpline and receives calls from Pension Centre or Jobcentre Plus staff requesting that the Bank Liaison Section recalls a payment from a bank account. This line is operated by approximately five staff and costs £110,000 per annum.

Third party payments helpline—is a helpline for third party creditors, for example utilities companies and local authorities, querying payments made to them following deductions made from benefits. This line is operated by approximately 2.5 staff and costs £55,000 per annum.

The Purchase to Pay and Payment Resolution Service estimated non staff annual costs are £128,508. This means that overall this service will cost £583,508 this operational year.

Employee Services operates three internal service lines and helplines for DWP employees to raise HR and payroll queries:

Simple queries are answered at the first point of contact and funding of £1.510 million has been provided for this year.

More complex queries are handled by specialist caseworkers and funding of £169,000 has been provided for this year.

An external recruitment helpline is operated for candidates applying for externally advertised posts. Due to the civil service recruitment freeze no funding has been provided for this activity for 2011-12.

Employee Services estimated non-staff annual costs are £299,520. This means that overall this service will cost £1,978,520 this operational year.

Debt Management does not operate any helplines but has three service lines:

Debt Recovery—is for customers to make enquiries about new or ongoing debt cases;

Debt Payment—debt customers are able to make direct payments through debit card transactions; and

Recovery from Estates—is for inquiries regarding debt recovery from a deceased customer's estate.

Debt Management's overall budget for this year is £6,902,967 and this is broken down into £6,121,755 for staff costs and £781,212 for non-staff costs.

Pension Disability and Carers Service (PDCS)

PDCS operates 16 helplines and service lines:

State Pension New Claims—where members of the public contact us to claim their state pension;

Pension Credit New Claims—for customers who have an inquiry relating to pension credit. This includes checking entitlement, making a new claim or progressing a claim which they have already started;

State Pension Changes—for customers who are in receipt of their state pension and wish to inform PDCS of a change of circumstances;

Pension Credit Changes—for customers who are in receipt of their pension credit and wish to inform PDCS of a change of circumstances;

Bereavement Service—for customers who are calling to report bereavement, this provides advice and support on how to cease benefits;

Future Pension Centre—for members of the public at working age who want a pension forecast;

National Pension Centre—or customers who are in receipt of state pension and are above a certain age who wish to make a query about their claim or report a change of circumstances;

International Pension Centre—for customers who are living abroad and are in receipt of state pension;

Tell Us Once service—is undertaking a phased roll-out approach and allows customers who live within certain local authorities to give details of bereavement and this will notify all other affected authorities of the bereavement;

Winter Fuel—for customers who have a query relating to winter fuel. This service is only available within the months of November to March;

Pension Tracing Service—for customers who have lost details of a pension scheme which they were previously contributing to;

Method of Payment Reform service—for customers who receive their state pension or pension credit via cheque or giro cheque and need to change their payment method to direct payment to a bank account; and

Overseas Healthcare Team—for customers making inquiries about health care abroad. This is includes applying for, renewing and make changes to a European Health Insurance Card. It is also an advice line for customers who are travelling abroad as well as a helpline for NHS and insurance workers.

PDCS budgets are calculated by Pension Centre rather than by function and staff perform both telephony and processing duties, which means that it is not possible to provide a breakdown by service line or by how much funding is given to their telephony services. PDCS have an overall budget of £155 million for this operational year.

Carers allowance—for customers who have caring responsibilities for a disabled person and deals with all inquiries, including new claims. This service line has a budget of £3.5 million for this operational year and includes staff and non-staff costs.

Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance Helpline—deals with all inquiries, including new claims, for disability living allowance and attendance allowance. This service line has a budget of £8.7 million for this operational year and includes staff and non-staff costs.

Benefit Enquiry Line (BEL)—is a helpline for people with disabilities, their carers and representatives, offering confidential advice and general information on all benefits and how to claim them. This service line has a budget of £1.1 million for this operational year and includes staff and non-staff costs.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC)

CMEC operates a national helpline which is for clients and stakeholders to ask case specific or general inquiries. The budget is £6.25 million and covers the cost of people employed by the helpline, plus expenses. It does not include overhead items such as IT or accommodation as these budgets are controlled centrally.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the average length of time employment and support allowance claimants wait for their appeal to be heard. [68119]

Chris Grayling: At the end of May 2011, there was an average total of 32.6 weeks between an appeal being submitted to the Department of Work and Pensions and a final decision being made by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

The average time between the Department receiving the appeal and it being passed to HMCTS was 8.1 weeks. During this time, the Department looks at the case again to ensure it is fully satisfied its original decision was correct.

The average time between HMCTS receiving an appeal from the Department for Work and Pensions and the appeal being heard was 24.5 weeks. During this period, HMCTS contacts the appellant to ensure that they have an opportunity to submit any additional evidence they believe will support their appeal.

It is important to ensure that all parties have time to fully consider the facts of the case and provide any further evidence they believe may be relevant.

Employment and Support Allowance: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time is for which employment and support allowance applicants in Bexleyheath and Crayford have waited for *(a)* a medical assessment and *(b)* an appeal hearing in the last 12 months. [67452]

Chris Grayling: Information on the Work Capability Assessment and appeals process is not available at parliamentary constituency level. The information requested is therefore presented for (a) the Bexley local authority area, and (b) appeals administered by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service office serving the Bexleyheath and Crayford area.

In the last 12-month period for which figures are available (September 2000 to August 2010), for new claims to employment and support allowance in Bexley, the average time between the claim start date and the date Jobcentre Plus provided the decision on the initial Work Capability Assessment (WCA) was 113 days, or 16 weeks.

ESA appeals are submitted to Jobcentre Plus and are then passed to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). Within the Bexleyheath and Crayford area, appeals are dealt with by the HMCTS administrative office in Sutton and are heard by a Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) tribunal in Bexleyheath.

In the last 12-month period for which figures are available (June 2010 to May 2011) the average time between Jobcentre Plus receiving the appeal and it being passed to the HMCTS administrative office Sutton was 9.9 weeks. During this time, Jobcentre Plus staff look at the case again to ensure they are fully satisfied the original decision was correct. In the same period, the average time between HMCTS receiving an appeal from the Jobcentre Plus and the appeal being heard at the SSCS tribunal in Bexleyheath was 19.1 weeks. During this period, HMCTS contacts the appellant to ensure that they have an opportunity to submit any additional evidence they believe will support their appeal.

The Department for Work and Pensions regularly publishes official statistics on employment and support allowance and the WCA. The latest report was published in April 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Employment Schemes

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has issued guidance to Work programme prime providers to ensure the use of local, specialist and black, asian and ethnic minority providers in their sub-contracts and supply chain. [68707]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions cannot discriminate in favour of any particular organisation or group. Also, we did not specify the types of organisations that should be engaged in the Work programme supply chain as these are commercial decisions for prime providers. We did, however, ask organisations invited to tender for Work programme contracts to tell us how they would fully meet the diverse needs of all participants including those from black, Asian and ethnic minority groups.

Employment Services

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* status and *(b)* purpose is of the Transforming Labour Market Services Programme; and if he will make a statement. [68122]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The Transforming Labour Market Services Project is currently in the final stages of a commercial process to select a supplier and will announce the selection in September. Providing the Project receives the necessary approvals, the new service is expected to go live in spring 2012.

(b) Transforming Labour Market Services is one of the cornerstone projects of the Department for Work and Pensions digitalisation and business transformation agenda and will deliver a web-based vacancy taking, filling and automated job matching service.

It is an important foundation for universal credit, encouraging jobseekers and business to use and become comfortable with online channels in their transactions with the Department. It will also make an important contribution to the Department's efficiency savings.

It will create an improved and integrated service where employers can directly manage their job vacancies online, jobseekers can manage their job seeking profile online, and both can receive automated matches based on their requirements.

Foreign Workers

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what companies holding contracts with his Department have submitted proposals to offshore work in the last 12 months. [68605]

Chris Grayling: The Department requires that contracted suppliers consult with the Department where it is proposed to store or process any of the Department's information outside of the UK. Details of the individual suppliers that have consulted with the Department with regard to such proposals are commercially sensitive. Separately, the Department is exploring how future offshoring can be minimised and whether jobs currently offshored could potentially be moved back to the UK.

Housing Benefit

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make it his policy to review regularly the relationship between housing benefit and actual rents and change the calculations of housing support where there is a divergence; [68233]

(2) by what process housing benefit will be uprated under universal credit; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that housing benefit rates take account of trends in rental costs. [68232]

Steve Webb: In the private rented sector, we have begun and will continue to make reforms to the local housing allowance approach. We have already announced our intention to limit increases in housing support in line with the consumer prices index (CPI) from April 2013 and this will ensure that we continue to exert downward pressure on rents.

We have commissioned independent, external research to evaluate the impact of the reforms to housing benefit announced in the June 2010 Budget and the spending review. The review will be comprehensive and thorough and will be presented to both Houses together with a ministerial statement. We intend to make final findings available in 2013 with initial findings available during 2012.

We are committed to making savings from the measure to uprate LHA by CPI until 2014-15, but if it then becomes apparent that local housing allowance rates and local market rents are out of step they can then be reconsidered.

Support for housing costs is also an important element of universal credit and we want to incorporate the features of the local housing allowance where it is appropriate. Ministers are, however, still considering the detailed design features of how housing costs will be included within the overall universal credit framework.

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department expects to publish its consultation document on exempt accommodation rules; and if he will make a statement. [68447]

Steve Webb: We published the consultation document, "Housing Benefit Reform—Supported Accommodation" on 19 July 2011 and this can be found on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/supported-housing.shtml

This was announced by written ministerial statement on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 115-16WS. The consultation period runs until 9 October 2011.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether charities providing private housing for vulnerable adults will be able to receive an individual's housing benefit directly into their bank account under his proposed changes to the benefit system; and if he will make a statement; [68939]

(2) what responsibilities elderly people in supported housing are to have for *(a)* managing their housing benefit and *(b)* ensuring that their rent is paid appropriately under his proposed changes to the benefit system; [68940]

(3) whether individuals who are to be given charge of their housing benefit payments are to be provided with any financial education or assistance with their personal finances. [68941]

Steve Webb: There are advantages in paying the housing component to individuals, rather than the current system of payments direct to landlords. This would encourage people to manage their own budget in the same way as other households. Additionally, we do not want to take away responsibilities for rent payment that tenants have handled perfectly well perhaps all their working lives.

However, we also recognise the importance of stable rental income for social landlords to support the delivery of new homes. We are developing universal credit in a way that protects their financial position, and we plan to retain a facility for direct payments to social landlords, including charities.

We recognise that, in encouraging more people to manage their own budgets, there may well be a need for additional financial education and support. We are considering precisely what additional support services might be required in the run-up to universal credit.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average level of payment was under the housing benefit transitional payments scheme for each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available. [69079]

Steve Webb: To support the 2011 housing benefit reforms we are providing an additional £10 million of discretionary housing payments (DHPs) during 2011-12 which has been allocated based on the Department's estimates of the total gross reduction in housing benefit entitlement in each local authority.

We have also provided a further £4 million of transition funding during 2011-12 to support implementation initiatives. At the beginning of May we invited local authorities to bid for a proportion of the £4 million transition fund available during 2011-12. We received 67 bids, most of which were joint bids between local authorities. Individual bids were marked against set criteria including value for money, innovation and how well they support the transition stages of change.

A total of 10 bids were successful, of which four were covering London boroughs and are listed as follows.

Bid	*Area covered*	*Initiative*	*Value (£)*
East London Housing Partnership (lead LA is Barking and Dagenham)	Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham, Hackney, Newham, Redbridge, City of London and Havering	Social lettings agency: provides free service to landlords to avoid management costs and reduce rents; support for tenants who have to move	294,875
London borough of Lambeth	Lambeth with voluntary sector groups in the area	Tenancy rescue service to support the most vulnerable to prevent homelessness	266,000
London borough of Haringey	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Islington, Westminster and Haringey	Mobility settlement service providing monetary advice, support with rent negotiation and practical assistance where people need to move	525,000
London borough of Brent	Local authority only	Advice workers; portal for voluntary sector to help support claimants	216,526

All local authorities were advised of their individual allocation of DHP funding during 2011-12 on 2 February 2011

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/s2-2011.pdf

Allocations of DHP funding and transition funding for future years will be decided later this year.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of housing benefit in each London borough whose rent level is greater than their entitlement to local housing allowance; and if he will make a statement. [69085]

Steve Webb: The requested information is not available at local authority level. However, the Department has made available on its website statistics on the number of housing benefit claimants assessed under local housing allowance rules, who are experiencing a shortfall between their housing benefit and contractual rent, by Government office region. The table shows that, as at March 2010, in London 38%, which at the time was equivalent to 61,000 claimants, were experiencing a shortfall.

This information was included in the ad hoc analysis publication titled "LHA Regional Analysis", which was published on the DWP statistics website on 13 May 2011.

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/

Local housing allowance rules changed on 1 April 2011. Customers who were receiving housing benefit according to local housing allowance rules at the time these changes were introduced are receiving up to nine months transitional protection from the date their claim is reviewed by the local authority, allowing them more time to adjust to the changes.

Industrial Health and Safety

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Health and Safety Executive defines low-risk business environments. [68010]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has developed guidance and example risk assessments primarily aimed at lower-risk businesses. HSE has been guided by the definition of risk as a concept embodying a combination of likelihood and consequence. Therefore, low-risk activities are those where incidents have a low likelihood of occurring and consequences are minor.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 37W, on industrial health and safety, what the cost will be to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) of the implementation of the recommendations of Common Safety that it leads on in each year to 2014-15; and what percentage of the HSE's budget such cost represents in each such year. [68231]

Chris Grayling: The majority of the recommendations falling to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) from Common Sense Common Safety have already been delivered. Those that remain will be delivered within existing HSE resources, in line with the HSE delivery plan, and within the HSE 2010 spending review settlement.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 34W, on industrial accidents, whether he anticipates a reduction in the overall number of proactive workplace inspections as a result of changes to the Health and Safety Executive's budget. [68236]

Chris Grayling: No. The reduction in the number of proactive workplace inspections is a matter of policy. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 32W.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 34W, on industrial accidents, what criteria the Government use to monitor the effectiveness of *(a)* proactive workplace inspections and *(b)* incident inspections conducted by the Health and Safety Executive. [68237]

Chris Grayling: The Government do not use criteria for monitoring the effectiveness of HSE specifically in relation to proactive workplace inspections and incident follow-up inspections on the number of industrial accidents because there is no reliable way of distinguishing their impact from other influences in the health and safety system.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse arising from the closure of Jobcentre Plus branches at *(a)* London Heathrow, *(b)* London Denmark Street, *(c)* London Harrow Station Road, *(d)* Camberwell, *(e)* Bluewater Recruitment Centre, *(f)* Chelmsford Beeches Road, *(g)* Edinburgh City, *(h)* Dundee Gellatly Street, *(i)* Aberdeen Chapel Street, *(j)* Glasgow Shawlands, *(k)* Glasgow City, *(l)* Glasgow Hillington, *(m)* Aylesbury Heron House, *(n)* Manchester Airport, *(o)* Manchester Trafford Centre, *(p)* Old Swan Merseyside, *(q)* Halifax Horton Street, *(r)* Leicester Highfields, *(s)* Caradog House, Cardiff, *(t)* Banff and *(u)* Girvan; [68917]

(2) when he expects Jobcentre Plus's review of the jobcentre estate to be concluded; how many branches of Jobcentre Plus have been announced for closure as part of that review to date; what services are available from each branch announced for closure; and on what date each branch will close; [68970]

(3) which organisations Jobcentre Plus have encouraged to co-locate with its branches at *(a)* London Heathrow, *(b)* London Denmark Street, *(c)* London Harrow Station Road, *(d)* Camberwell, *(e)* Bluewater Recruitment Centre, *(f)* Chelmsford Beeches Road, *(g)* Edinburgh City, *(h)* Dundee Gellatly Street, *(i)* Aberdeen Chapel Street, *(j)* Glasgow Shawlands, *(k)* Glasgow City, *(l)* Glasgow Hillington, *(m)* Aylesbury Heron House, *(n)* Manchester Airport, *(o)* Manchester Trafford Centre, *(p)* Old Swan Merseyside, *(q)* Halifax Horton Street, *(r)* Leicester Highfields, *(s)* Caradog House, Cardiff, *(t)* Banff and *(u)* Girvan. [68971]

Chris Grayling: The estimated savings to the public purse of the 20 Jobcentre buildings identified for potential closure is £32.1 million over eight years (to 2017-18) at net present value (NPV).

Jobcentre Plus is endeavouring to become a leaner, more flexible and productive organisation that delivers more of its services over the telephone and internet. As it implements more digital services and as unemployment falls, Jobcentre Plus will be able to free up more capacity in its estate. Face-to-face contact in Jobcentres will reduce as more services can be accessed online and through the simplification of the benefit system.

While Jobcentre Plus does not anticipate announcing any further closures this year, it will continuously review its estate so that efficiency savings and value for money for the taxpayer can be achieved. Jobcentre Plus will also be working alongside its partners to explore every opportunity that might further reduce estates costs and constantly monitoring its workloads and the impact of universal credit to assess the potential for further rationalisation.

Since the estates review commenced (post 2010 spending review), Jobcentre Plus has announced the closure or consultation on the closure of 44 offices.

On 13 May it was announced that 22 Benefit and Contact Centres would close. Benefit Centres at Arbroath, Ayr, Broadstairs, Cannock, Castleford, Chester, Exeter, Halifax, Huyton, Lincoln, Luton, Mansfield, Sutton in Ashfield, Totton and Yeovil will close by May 2012. Contact Centres at Caerphilly, Clydebank, Grimsby (Europarc), Liverpool and Preston will close by May 2012. A further two Benefit Centres at Carlisle and Hartlepool will close during 2012-13.

On 8 July Jobcentre Plus announced consultation on the closure of Banff and Girvan Jobcentres and the intention to move all staff and services into the premises of partner organisations in the respective towns.

On 19 July Jobcentre Plus announced that it had identified 20 Jobcentre buildings which it believes it can close without reducing service standards and has embarked on a six-week consultation period before taking a final decision. The services that each provides is as follows:

London Heathrow Jobshop is an employer-only facility and the same facilities for employers can be provided at a nearby Jobcentre in Hounslow.

London Denmark Street Jobcentre is an employer-only facility and the same facilities can be offered from nearby Jobcentres in Central London.

London Harrow Station Road Jobcentre provides the full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within one mile (Harrow Kings House).

London Camberwell Jobcentre provides the full Jobcentre service but there are alternative Jobcentres within two miles at Peckham, Brixton and Kennington.

The Bluewater Recruitment Centre is an employer-only facility and the same facilities can be offered from nearby Jobcentres in Kent.

Chelmsford Beeches Road is an annex to the main Jobcentre in the town and customers are only seen here by appointment.

Edinburgh City provides the full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within two miles (High Riggs).

Dundee Gellatly Street provides the full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within one mile (Wellgate, Dundee).

Aberdeen Chapel Street provides the full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within ½ mile at Edbury House, Aberdeen.

Glasgow Shawlands is an employer-only facility and the same facilities can be offered from nearby Jobcentres in Glasgow.

Glasgow City provides the full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within two miles (Partick).

Glasgow Hillington is an employer-only facility and the same facilities can be offered from nearby Jobcentres in Glasgow.

Aylesbury Heron House provides the full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within ½ mile at Sunley House, Aylesbury.

Manchester airport Jobshop is an employer-only facility and the same facilities can be offered from nearby Jobcentres in Manchester city centre.

Manchester Trafford Centre Jobshop is an employer-only facility and the same facilities can be offered from nearby Jobcentres in Manchester city centre.

Old Swan, Liverpool provides a full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within two miles at West Derby.

Halifax Horton Street provides a full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within one mile (Halifax Crossfield).

Leicester Highfields provides a full Jobcentre service but there are alternative Jobcentres within two miles at Charles Street and Wellington Street.

Caradog House, Cardiff provides a full Jobcentre service but there is an alternative Jobcentre within one mile (Charles Street, Cardiff).

Birmingham airport Jobshop is an employer-only facility and the same facilities can be provided at nearby Jobcentres.

Prior to the announcement on 19 July, confidentiality prevented Jobcentre Plus from progressing beyond high-level discussions with potential co-location partners at the sites. Now that the announcement has been made, Jobcentre Plus is able to embark upon a six-week consultation exercise with all of our customers, partners and key stakeholders and the subject of co-location will be an integral element of the exercise. Jobcentre Plus district managers have written to stakeholders to instigate and encourage participation in the consultation exercise.

If it is concluded following consultation that the closures should go ahead, typically they will close in 12 months unless a lease break enables earlier exit.

Jobcentre Plus: Complaints

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been made in relation to services provided by Jobcentre Plus *(a)* by each claimant category and *(b)* in relation to each service since 1997. [68262]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus was formed in April 2002, from the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service. I cannot provide the information relating to each claimant category and each service because we do not record in that way. Information is only available since 2004-05 in the following table:

Complaints received by Jobcentre Plus

	Number
2004-05	34,430
2005-06	33,350
2006-07	46,578
2007-08	45,852
2008-09	45,202
2009-10	60,201
2010-11	63,302

The rise in complaints is consistent with the rise in the volume of claimants Jobcentre Plus was dealing with.

Jobcentre Plus: Pay

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what incentives and bonus payments are available for personal advisers in Jobcentre Plus centres; how those incentives and payments are structured; and if he will make a statement. [68124]

Chris Grayling: The employee rewards scheme that Jobcentre Plus operates for its personal advisers are the same as those that run throughout the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which Jobcentre Plus is a part of.

They comprise of an end-of-year non-consolidated performance pay and an in-year special awards.

DWP employees below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual non-consolidated performance payment if they attain a rating of Wholly Exceptional or Consistently Good under the People Performance system. The actual payment awarded is determined by the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

Individuals may also be awarded a Special Award either as cash or retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year, to recognise exceptional achievements beyond what would normally be expected.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what metrics are used to assess the performance of personal advisers in Jobcentre Plus; what the latest figures are for performance against those metrics in each region; and if he will make a statement. [68126]

Chris Grayling: Individual Adviser Performance is assessed via our Performance Management Framework which consists of a series of agreed objectives and competencies. Within these objectives there is an expectation that advisers will spend 70% of their available time interacting with claimants and undertake a series of appropriate actions to support them to move closer to and into work. These metrics are managed at jobcentre level and are not aggregated to district or group level.

Jobcentre Plus is currently developing a new productivity measure (Average Adviser Contact Minutes per day) to support the delivery of a more personalised service that will identify barriers and find ways to support claimants back to work within the guidance framework of our Service Delivery Model. This new measure is due to be published in early September.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 12 May 2011 regarding Ms S Prior. [68910]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 25 May 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 31 May 2011 regarding Mrs M Saleem. [68911]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 14 June 2011.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to Support for Mortgage Interest on the Home Ownership for People with Long-term Disabilities model; and if he will make a statement. [68448]

Steve Webb: We published an equality impact assessment to accompany the regulations which introduced the change to the standard interest rate. It can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

Information on the numbers of people in the HOLD scheme receiving support for mortgage interest is not available and no specific assessment has been made of the effect of the changes on the HOLD model. The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for the policy for the HOLD scheme.

Support for mortgage interest is intended to provide a reasonable level of help for homeowners and has never been intended to cover all of a person's housing liabilities or to meet mortgage repayments in full. The fluctuating nature of the standard interest rate has been a key design feature since 1995, so rate increases and decreases are not new. It has always been the claimant's responsibility to meet any shortfalls. All individuals applying to the HOLD scheme must be able to demonstrate to their mortgage lender and the housing association provider that they are able to meet the cost of buying their share and that they can sustain the financial responsibilities that home ownership brings.

Pensioners: Cost of Living

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to the reliability of the consumer prices index as a measure of inflation for pensioners, particularly in respect of mortgage interest. [68810]

Steve Webb: We have concluded that the consumer prices index (CPI) is a reliable measure of pensioners' experience of inflation for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the CPI basket of goods does not include mortgage interest payments, which are not relevant to the majority of pensioners, only 8% of whom have a mortgage. The inclusion of mortgage interest payments in the retail prices index (RPI) led to negative RPI growth of -1.4 per cent in the year to September 2009, whereas the CPI showed 1.1 per cent growth during the same period.

The CPI includes the expenditure of pensioner households who receive 75% or more of their income from the state, a group excluded from the RPI.

The CPI also employs a methodology that is a more accurate reflection of how consumers, including pensioners, respond to price rises, than the methodology employed in the RPI.

Pensions

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an individual receiving the average rate of earnings who has made full national insurance contributions will be better or worse off under his plans for a flat-rate pension. [68858]

Maria Miller: The Government's consultation paper, "A state pension for the 21st century", sets out two broad options for reform to simplify the state pension and better support retirement saving. It also examines options for a more automatic mechanism for determining future changes to state pension age in order to ensure that the state pension remains sustainable and affordable.

The public consultation began on 4 April 2011 and closed on 24 June 2011. A summary of responses to the consultation was published on 27 July 2011 and can be accessed via the following web link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/state-pension-21st-century

As policy development is still under way, it is not possible to provide further detail at this stage. If the Government decide to take these proposals further, the publication of a White Paper and impact assessment would follow as part of the usual process.

Personal Independence Payment

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of his proposed personal independence payment on vulnerable adults with moderate and low care needs. [68041]

Maria Miller: The Government are in the process of developing the detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility for personal independence payment. We are currently carrying out an informal consultation on the draft criteria to seek the views of disabled people and their organisations on how they will work and how they might be improved. We are also testing them by carrying out around 1,000 sample assessments over the summer. The testing will help us to better understand the likely effect of the criteria, including the effect on those vulnerable adults with low to moderate needs. We intend to publish a second draft of the assessment criteria in the autumn, following consideration of the consultation findings and testing results.

The Government published an impact assessment and equality impact assessment on DLA reform with the Welfare Reform Bill which are available in the Library. As more detailed design is completed estimates of the impact of the new assessment on people receiving DLA will be made.

Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66586]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions presently does not hold sector-specific contractual information for such sectors as retailing/catering/industrial/services. The information is either not available or not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to change its administrative structure as a result of proposed reforms to the benefits system. [66743]

Chris Grayling: The welfare system is currently undergoing the biggest reform in 50 years, making it simpler and more efficient and helping to make work pay. As such it will necessitate a change in the administrative structure of DWP. We are currently working to establish what form the new structure will take.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households that will be affected by the proposed benefit cap in which *(a)* an adult or *(b)* a child is present who is recognised as a disabled person under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2010, but does not qualify for disability living allowance; what consideration he has given to providing exemptions in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [68034]

Chris Grayling: Our analysis of the impacts of the cap on disabled people was set out in the equality impact assessment we published in March 2011. This shows that of the 50,000 households we estimate the cap will affect, approximately half are likely to contain somebody who is disabled as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 2010.

We have announced that households that include a member who is entitled to disability living allowance will be exempt from the cap. This is in recognition that disability living allowance is paid to people to help with the extra costs arising from their disability. Not everyone defined as disabled by the Disability Discrimination Act will have extra costs that the Government would expect to meet through the benefit system.

The mitigation for recipients of disability living allowance means that approximately 30,000 customers who are disabled as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act, who would otherwise be impacted by the cap, are exempted from its effects.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received from local authorities on the potential effects of his proposed household benefit cap on demand for *(a)* school places, *(b)* housing and *(c)* children's services; and if he will make a statement. [68037]

Chris Grayling: As part of the Department for Work and Pension's (DWP) consultation on the overall welfare reform package we have received a number of broad representations from local authorities on the potential effects of the reforms on demand for housing. Representations about school places and children's services would be referred to the Department for Education.

The DWP has a statutory obligation to ensure that local authorities are kept abreast of benefit policy and strategy developments that affect them and have the opportunity, where possible, to help shape them.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households living in temporary accommodation provided by a local authority who will be affected by his proposed household benefit cap; what consideration he has given to providing exemptions in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [68038]

Steve Webb: Information on the number of households living in temporary accommodation provided by a local authority who will be affected by the proposed household benefit cap is not available.

We have announced that households which contain a member who is entitled to disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance or is eligible for working tax credit will be exempt from the benefit cap, as will war widows and widowers. We have also said that we are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of couple households with children who would be affected by the proposed benefit cap but would cease to be affected by the benefit cap if they terminated their relationships and evenly distributed the residency of the children between two separate parental households; and if he will make a statement. [68039]

Chris Grayling: The introduction of the household benefit cap is intended to achieve long-term positive behavioural effects through changed attitudes to welfare, responsible life choices and strong work incentives.

The financial position of couples living together versus their position apart would depend largely on the cost of accommodation in either situation. There is a wide variation in the cost of accommodation in this country, so it is not possible to say whether such couples would be better or worse off by altering their living arrangements in this way.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households who will be affected by the proposed benefit cap during periods of worklessness lasting less than *(a)* 26 weeks, *(b)* 13 weeks and *(c)* four weeks; what consideration he has given to exemption in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [68156]

Chris Grayling: If the benefit cap were applied in full, as announced in the spending review 2010, we estimate that it will affect approximately 50,000 households.

We have announced that households which contain a member who is entitled to disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance or is eligible for working tax credit will be exempt from the benefit cap, as will war widows and widowers.

We have also said that we are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households with children in kinship care likely to be affected by the proposed benefit cap; what consideration he has given to exemption in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [68157]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of households with children in kinship care likely to be affected by the proposed benefit cap is not available.

We have announced that households which contain a member who is entitled to disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance or is eligible for working tax credit will be exempt from the benefit cap as will war widows and widowers. We have also said that we are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases.

Any payments kinship carers receive from the local authority are not payments of social security benefit and so will not be included in calculations for the purposes of the benefit cap.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of trends in the workload of GPs arising from the provision of evidential support to appeals against decisions in disability living allowance and employment and support allowance. [68048]

Chris Grayling: DWP obtains medical evidence whenever necessary as part of the decision-making process when deciding entitlement to benefit. If a claimant decides to appeal against the decision they may obtain further medical evidence from clinicians involved in their care, and this may include their GP.

DWP has not undertaken any recent assessment of trends in GP workload arising from provision of medical evidence to support appeals against decisions in disability living allowance or employment and support allowance.

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of trends in the time taken for GPs to respond to requests for information as evidence in applications for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance. [68067]

Chris Grayling: When deciding benefit entitlement it is essential that the right decision is reached. Up-to-date and relevant information is central to this process. DWP may seek information from a number of sources that includes the patient, carers, relatives and friends and professionals involved in the claimant's care.

Wherever possible, information collection is kept to a minimum but at times professional reports to substantiate claims are needed, and in these circumstances a request for further medical evidence may be made to the GP.

DWP has not undertaken any assessment of trends in the time taken for GPs to respond to requests for medical evidence for either disability living allowance or employment and support allowance.

In claims for employment and support allowance, if a GP fails to provide a written report on request, there are mechanisms in place for a health care professional to telephone the GP if it is considered that that the information is essential.

Social Security Benefits: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to check the entitlement of partners and children resident in other EU member states whose benefits are topped up by the UK because of national insurance contributions made by a family member working in the UK. [67860]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

An EU/EEA national who is working in the UK, paying compulsory UK national insurance contributions and entitled to UK family benefits by virtue of EC regulation 883/2004 in respect of a child or children resident in another member state must provide documentary evidence of the child or children being claimed for, such as an original birth or adoption certificate.

In addition, where a claim is considered under the EC regulation, HMRC will carry out further checks with the authorities of the other member state to confirm the composition of the family, whether the other parent is working there and whether that member state is paying family benefits. These checks are carried out by all competent institutions in the member states when considering claims to their family benefits under the EC regulation. Payments of UK family benefits, whether at the full rate or at a lower supplementary rate, are not made until the other member state has provided the necessary confirmation.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution by the Minister for Pensions of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 73WH, on benefits (EU nationals), what the evidential basis is of his statement that it is not possible to prevent skilled migrant workers from working in less demanding jobs; and what discussions he has had with representatives of UK businesses on steps to reduce demand for migrant workers. [68776]

Chris Grayling: EU Regulation 492/2011 (formerly Regulation 1612/68), on the freedom of movement of workers within the EU, guarantees migrant workers equality of treatment with nationals of the host country in respect of the right to take up an activity as an employed person and full and free access to the host country labour market. This means the majority of migrant workers from the EU have the right to take up available employment in the UK on the same basis as UK workers. However, there are transitional restrictions in place for nationals of the newest EU member states, Bulgaria and Romania, and the Government are committed to introducing transitional controls on nationals of all new EU member states as a matter of course.

I have not had any discussions with business representatives to reduce demand for migrant workers.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution by the Minister for Pensions of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 75WH, on benefits (EU nationals), how many habitual residency requests have been granted to applicants who have been resident in the UK for less than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months and *(d)* a year in each year since 2004. [68777]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Information is collected from claimants to help benefit decision-makers decide whether a person is habitually resident, including the length of time someone has lived in the UK prior to making their claim for benefit.

Information in these circumstances is usually gathered by interviewing the claimant. However, as habitual residence is not a condition of entitlement, and while this information is collected and passed to decision-makers in considering habitual residence, it is not recorded on our benefit processing systems, and we are therefore unable to provide any information relating to this.

The term "habitual residence" is not defined in social security legislation. This means that each case is considered on its own merits, in the light of the person's individual circumstances. In deciding whether a person is actually habitually resident, decision-makers consider a wide variety of factors. These include reasons for coming to the United Kingdom, the length of their stay, future intentions, previous links with the country and, in the case of people returning to the United Kingdom, the reasons for their absence. DWP guidance, based on case law, suggests that a period of between one and three months is likely to be appropriate to demonstrate that a person's residence is habitual in nature.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution by the Minister for Pensions of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 76WH, on benefits (EU nationals), what the minimum level of national insurance contributions is that workers have to make in order to be eligible for benefits that require national insurance contributions at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower national insurance contribution rate. [68778]

Chris Grayling: EU nationals take the same steps to claim contribution-based benefits as UK nationals. If an EU migrant worker's UK national insurance record is not sufficient to meet the contribution conditions for benefit, the UK will use their social insurance payments in another EU member state to help. EU law requires us to ask benefit claimants about whether they have worked elsewhere in Europe.

The following tables outline the domestic position.

Employment and support allowance (ESA) and jobseeker's allowance (JSA)

Benefit		
New First Contribution Condition	From 1 November 2010, all new customers claiming contributory ESA and JSA will only qualify for benefit if they have paid contributions on earnings equivalent to the Lower Earnings Limit for at least 26 weeks. Further changes were made to the number of relevant tax years in which a person can pay national insurance contributions and qualify for ESA by reducing them from three years to two, which aligns with JSA. National insurance contributions will need to have been paid in one of the two tax years prior to the claim[1]. As a result, people will need to have worked for at least 26 weeks in one of the last two complete tax years to claim either benefit.	
ESA	*New First Condition* This must be satisfied in at least one of the last two complete tax years before the start of the benefit year that a claim is made. Paid or treated as paid 26 Class 1 contributions above the Lower Earnings Limit; 26 Class 2 contributions; or a mixture of Class 1 and 2 contributions totalling 26 times the Lower Earnings Limit for that year.	*Second Contribution Condition* For each of the previous two tax years, a claimant must have been paid or credited with Class 1 or Class 2 contributions on earnings of 50 times the Lower Earnings Limit for that tax year.
JSA	*First Contribution Condition* This must be satisfied in at least one of the last two complete tax years before the start of the benefit year that a claim is made. Paid or treated as paid 26 Class 1 contributions of at least the Lower Earnings Limit. This must be satisfied in at least one of the last two complete tax years before the start of the benefit year[2] that a claim is made. Does not include Class 2 contributions (self-employed contributions).	*Second Contribution Condition* For each of the previous two tax years, a claimant must have been paid or credited with Class 1 contributions on earnings of 50 times the Lower Earnings Limit for that tax year. Does not include Class 2 contributions.

[1] Certain low-paid people who earn above the lower earnings limit and below the single person tax threshold are treated as having paid NI contributions. [2] A benefit year commences on the first Sunday in January and ends on the Saturday before the first Sunday of the following year. To establish entitlement you look at the contributions paid in the relevant tax years preceding the benefit year in which the claim is made.

Bereavement benefits

	Widowed parent's allowance (WPA) and bereavement allowance (BA)	*Bereavement payment (BP)*
National insurance—basic condition	Entitlement subject to the late spouse or civil partner satisfying certain contribution conditions.	
First Contribution Condition (only condition for BP)	Late spouse or civil partner must have actually paid or have been deemed to have paid in any one tax year a minimum amount of contributions, currently 52 times the Lower Earnings Limit for the year in question.	Class 1 (employee), Class 2 (self-employed) or Class 3 (voluntary) contributions of at least 25 times the weekly Lower Earnings Limit in any one tax year.
Second Contribution Condition	The late spouse or civil partner must have paid or been credited contributions for about 90% of the years in their working life. The allowance or pension is reduced if the "qualifying years" are less than this—with no payment below 25%. People entitled to WPA can also get between 50% and 100% of their late spouse or civil partner's Additional State Pension.	

Note: Entitlement to additional state pension arises where in a tax year the individual paid or is treated as having paid national insurance contributions as an employee on earnings of more than 52 times the Lower Earnings Limit for that tax year.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much social security spending within total managed expenditure was spent on *(a)* working and *(b)* non-working people in each year since 1997; what proportion of such spending was on each benefit; and if he will make a statement. [68121]

Chris Grayling: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much social security spending within total managed expenditure was spent on *(a)* working age and *(b)* non-working age people in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [68128]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

DWP benefit expenditure

£ billion, nominal

	Working age	*Non-working age*	*Total*
1997-98	45.2	48.1	93.3
1998-99	45.1	50.4	95.6
1999-2000	45.2	53.8	99.0
2000-01	44.2	57.1	101.4
2001-02	45.4	61.3	106.7
2002-03	46.9	63.4	110.3
2003-04	39.4	66.4	105.8

DWP benefit expenditure

£ billion, nominal

	Working age	*Non-working age*	*Total*
2004-05	39.8	71.3	111.1
2005-06	40.3	75.5	115.8
2006-07	41.2	78.0	119.2
2007-08	42.6	83.3	125.9
2008-09	44.8	90.6	135.4
2009-10	50.9	96.6	147.6
2010-11	52.5	100.4	152.9

£ billion, 2011-12 prices

	Working age	*Non-working age*	*Total*
1997-98	63.7	67.8	131.5
1998-99	62.3	69.6	131.9
1999-2000	61.2	72.8	134.1
2000-01	59.1	76.3	135.4
2001-02	59.3	80.1	139.4
2002-03	59.4	80.3	139.6
2003-04	48.5	81.8	130.2
2004-05	47.7	85.4	133.1
2005-06	47.4	88.8	136.2
2006-07	46.9	88.8	135.7
2007-08	47.2	92.2	139.3
2008-09	48.2	97.6	145.8
2009-10	53.9	102.3	156.3
2010-11	54.0	103.3	157.3

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion, and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures are consistent with those published following the 2011 Budget. Figures for 2010-11 are estimates and are subject to further revision.
3. Figures cover only benefits for which DWP and its predecessors had responsibility, and some elements of expenditure are no longer included in the figures due to being transferred to other Government Departments.
4. "Working age benefits" are assumed to include those paid specifically in respect of children—principally Child Benefit (up to 2002-03, after which it was transferred to HM Revenue and Customs).

Source Data:

DWP statistical and accounting data

Further benefit expenditure data can be found using the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/
index.php?page=expenditure

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 873W, on social security benefits: fraud, how many arrest warrants had been issued in cases where a defendant had failed to attend a hearing or trial without an explanation acceptable to the court on the most recent date for which figures are available; what the monetary value of the alleged fraud was in each such case; and how many such warrants were successfully executed in the latest period for which figures are available. [67108]

Chris Grayling: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost for the 550 cases referred to in the answer of 1 December 2010. However, information is available for arrest warrants that have been issued since November 2009 when the data began to be captured electronically.

In the period 2 November 2009 to 14 July 2011 the Department obtained 1,188 arrest warrants in cases where a defendant failed to attend a hearing or trial without an explanation acceptable to the court. During the same period, 869 arrest warrants were executed, leaving 319 outstanding.

I have deposited a table in the Library indicating the monetary value of each case.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to prevent benefit tourism. [67454]

Chris Grayling: We have strict rules in place to prevent abuse of the benefit system by benefit tourism. One of the principal measures is the habitual residence test. People coming from abroad can claim income-related benefits only if they have a right to reside and are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area[1]. Claimants are required to show that they are habitually resident in this country and have a settled intention to remain. Any exceptions (refugees, for example) are linked to the immigration status awarded by the Home Office.

To support staff in applying the habitual residence test, we recently introduced an electronic data gathering form in Jobcentre Plus. The aim is to improve both the collection of information relevant to the test, and the quality of the decisions made in respect of it.

In addition, I have commissioned work to look at making information available on the nationality of benefit claimants. These statistics will help us identify the extent to which people from other countries are claiming benefits in the UK.

Last month, in the EU Employment and Social Affairs Council, I called for debate on economically inactive migrants and their access to benefits. 14 other member states supported me, and have also joined the UK in seeking changes to EU regulations to prevent benefit tourism.

We recognise that it is important that we provide support to people who come to this country, in line with our national and international obligations. However, it is also necessary to protect the taxpayer and the benefit system from possible abuse.

We are committed to ensuring that the rules governing the payment of benefits to people from abroad are kept under review.

[1] The UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and the Republic of Ireland.

Social Security Benefits: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Islington North constituency were *(a)* in receipt of jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* in receipt of income support and *(c)* not economically active or in receipt of benefits in each of the last 12 months for which information is available. [69086]

Chris Grayling: The numbers of people in the Islington North constituency who are claiming jobseeker's allowance, income support and the total number of people who are receiving benefits are as follows:

	(a) Number of jobseeker's allowance claimants	*(b) Number of income support claimants*	*Total number of benefit claimants*	*(c) Total number not economically active or in receipt of benefits*
July 2010	3,984	—	—	—
August 2010	3,959	6,250	12,860	—
September 2010	3,948	—	—	20,000
October 2010	3,865	—	—	—
November 2010	3,876	6,020	12,560	—
December 2010	3,780	—	—	21,800
January 2011	3,871	—	—	—
February 2011	3,827	—	—	—
March 2011	3,772	—	—	—
April 2011	3,911	—	—	—
May 2011	3,896	—	—	—
June 2011	3,869	—	—	—

The figures for jobseeker's allowance claimants are updated on our computer system on a monthly basis. However, the numbers of other benefit claimants only become available on our computer system after six months.

State Retirement Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men qualifying for a full state pension in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010 did so having paid national insurance contributions in excess of the necessary minimum number of qualifying years. [68303]

Steve Webb: The following table presents the estimated number of UK and overseas residents qualifying for a full basic state pension in their own right by gender and tax year of state pension age, and the estimated number of individuals with more qualifying years than necessary for a full basic state pension.

	Tax year of state pension age		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Individuals qualifying for a full basic state pension in their own right (UK and overseas residents)			
Men	260,000	270,000	310,000
Women	120,000	130,000	120,000
Total	380,000	390,000	440,000
Individuals with more qualifying years than necessary for a full basic state pension (UK and overseas residents)			
Men	250,000	250,000	310,000
Women	90,000	110,000	120,000
Total	350,000	360,000	430,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000 individuals. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
2. People reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010 need 30 qualifying years for a full basic state pension. Men reaching state pension age before 6 April 2010 usually need 44 qualifying years for a full basic state pension. Women reaching state pension age before 6 April 2010 usually need 39 qualifying years for a full basic state pension.
3. Data are only available on contributions up to and including the 2008-09 tax year. People reaching state pension age in 2010-11 could also be awarded a qualifying year for the 2009-10 tax year. Hence the estimates in the table for the 2010-11 cohort are based on incomplete data.
4. Because of the increase in the state pension age for women born from 6 April 1950, fewer women reached state pension age in 2010-11 than in 2009-10.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Lifetime Labour Market Database 2010, 1% sample administrative data (containing information on contributions up to and including the 2008-09 tax year)

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the total monetary value was of employee national insurance contributions made in 2010 by *(a)* men and *(b)* women who had already made payments for the necessary minimum number of qualifying years for a full state pension; [68305]

(2) how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female employees who made national insurance contributions in 2010 had already made payments for the necessary minimum number of qualifying years for a full state pension. [68244]

Steve Webb: Estimates are not available for the 2010-11 tax year. The latest available estimates are in the following table, for the 2008-09 tax year.

	Men	*Women*	*Total*
Individuals paying Class 1 employee contributions in 2008-09 (thousand)	13,950	12,330	26,270
Total paid (£ billion)	24.1	13.9	38.0
Of whom:			
Individuals already with entitlement to a full basic state pension in their own right (thousand)	3,670	2,620	6,280
Total paid (£ billion)	7.3	3.3	10.6

Notes:
1. Individuals are rounded to the nearest 10,000 individuals. Amounts are rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
2. Amounts are in cash terms.
3. People reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010 need 30 qualifying years for a full basic state pension. Men reaching state pension age before 6 April 2010 usually need 44 qualifying years for a full basic state pension. Women reaching state pension age before 6 April 2010 usually need 39 qualifying years for a full basic state pension.
4. Class 1 employee contributions are paid on earnings from employment above the Primary Threshold applicable in the tax year.
5. Contributions in excess of those required for a full basic state pension may generate entitlement to additional state pension and working-age contributory benefits.

Source:
HMRC and DWP Information Directorate, Lifetime Labour Market Database 2010, 1% sample administrative data (containing information on contributions up to and including the 2008-09 tax year)

Unemployment: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were registered as actively seeking work in jobcentres in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency between January and June 2011. [69076]

Chris Grayling: The numbers of people who were registered as actively seeking work in London jobcentres, the London borough of Tower Hamlets and the Bethnal Green and Bow constituency between January and June 2011 are as follows:

						2011
Area	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
London jobcentres	214,613	219,958	220,857	226,182	225,714	224,391
London borough of Tower Hamlets	10,196	10,345	10,364	10,507	10,568	10,612
Bethnal Green and Bow constituency	5,286	5,302	5,320	5,380	5,429	5,452

Unemployment: Young People

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce youth unemployment in *(a)* Sunderland Central constituency, *(b)* Sunderland and *(c)* the North East. [69146]

Chris Grayling: Work experience and apprenticeships are central to improving the prospects of young unemployed people across the country.

Overall we are funding up to 100,000 work experience placements over two years. This will enable young people to undertake a period of valuable work experience lasting between two and eight weeks. Claimants in the 18-24 age group are eligible for work experience and we recently announced the widening of eligibility to include 16 and 17-year-olds in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

Government are funding up to 250,000 more apprenticeships in England over the next four years and we are strengthening the links between work experience and apprenticeships. Later this year work experience placements will be extended by up to four weeks where employers make a firm offer of an apprenticeship and that offer is accepted.

We have improved our package of support to provide earlier entry to the Work programme for more vulnerable young people and are providing additional Jobcentre Plus help for 16 and 17-year-old jobseeker's allowance claimants. The flexible support that Jobcentre Plus district managers are putting in place is being bolstered with a series of Get Britain Working measures, the availability of which will vary across the country according to local circumstances and needs.

Universal Credit

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the introduction of universal credit on his proposals to charge parents with care who use the planned statutory maintenance service [68434]

Chris Grayling: The Government announced in "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance", the intention to introduce charges for using the new statutory child maintenance service.

We do not expect the switch to universal credit to have a significant impact on a person's capacity to pay child maintenance charges. However, the Department will continue to reflect on and review the effect that universal credit proposals have on the child maintenance reforms.

Welfare to Work: Bethnal Green

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which welfare-to-work organisations operating in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency have a contract with his Department. [68706]

Chris Grayling: The following table lists the organisations that hold a contract for the delivery of contracted employment provision in Bethnal Green and Bow. Other organisations may deliver employment services on an ad-hoc basis.

Organisation	*Programme*
Action for Employment	Work Programme[1]
Seetec	[1]—
Careers Development Group	[1]—
Seetec	Work Choice
Action for Employment	Jobcentre Plus Support Contract
Seetec	Mandatory Work Activity
Working Links	Employment Zone (contracts end 1 September 2011)[1]
Reed in Partnership	[1]—
Avanta	[1]—
Working Links	New Deal (contract ends 1 September 2011)
Tomorrow's People	European Social Fund (contracts end 27 July 2011)

[1] Indicates a brace

Work Capability Assessment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 653W, on employment support allowance: work capability assessment, whether *(a)* changes in the severity of illness occurring in different phases of medication cycles and *(b)* the phase of a particular applicant's medication cycle are taken into account during work capability assessments. [68823]

Chris Grayling: Healthcare professionals take account of severity of the claimant's medical conditions, any treatment they receive and fluctuations in the disabling effects of the conditions both day to day and in the longer term as part of their assessment.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was between the initiation of an appeal against a decision on a work capability assessment and the notification of the outcome of the appeal to the appellant in the latest period for which figures are available. [61402]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available in the form requested. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) only records information from the point of initiation of an appeal to lodging that appeal with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). While DWP counts the overall numbers of appeals lodged, a number of these appeals will not be referred to the First-tier Tribunal. Appeals lodged with the DWP can lapse if the disputed decision is revised in the customer's favour upon reconsideration, or the customer can decide to withdraw their appeal prior to it being referred and in certain circumstances appeals can be struck out.

HMCTS records average waiting times from the point of receipt with HMCTS to the outcome of the hearing.

The following table shows the average time taken from submission of an appeal to DWP on a work capability decision until a decision is issued by HMCTS.

			Weeks
	April 2011	*May 2011*	*Year to date*[1]
ESA[2] waiting time in DWP	6.48	6.56	6.52
IB[3] waiting time in DWP	6.48	7.28	6.88
ESA waiting time in HMCTS	23.55	24.82	24.2
IB waiting time in HMCTS	27.15	27.58	27.37

[1] Data cover from 1 April 2011 until 31 May 2011 (the latest period for which figures are available).

[2] Employment and support allowance

[3] Incapacity benefit

The DWP figures produced are internal management information for internal use only and do not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's code of practice.

The average waiting times on a work capability assessment appeals for both ESA and IB cases are made available within the "Social Security and Child Support Statistics" which was published on 15 July on the HMCTS website:

> http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/tribunals/sscs-stats.htm

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to prioritising people waiting for an appeal against a decision of a work capability assessment to be heard who have been diagnosed with anxiety or depression which could be aggravated by waiting for an outcome. [68185]

Chris Grayling: The hon. Member will no doubt be aware that a significant proportion of claimants report mental health as one of their health problems. In view of the numbers involved, it would not be appropriate to delay the appeals of others in order to prioritise the appeals of this particular group. Importantly, all claimants can continue to receive employment and support allowance at a basic rate pending the outcome of the appeal where they appeal against a limited capability for work decision.

We have now commenced the reassessment of everyone on incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and income support paid because of an illness or disability to see if they are ready and capable of work. As we know that the assessment process may prove stressful for some customers we have taken a number of steps to ensure those affected are fully informed of what will happen and how it may affect them. Jobcentre Plus write to claimants when their benefit becomes due for reassessment (prompted by the date that they would have been due a Personal Capability Assessment) to tell them about the changes. We also phone the customer shortly after this to check they have received the letter and that they understand what action they need to take, and to find out if they need any extra help. We are now looking at extending this more personal treatment in response to Professor Harrington's recommendations made in his recent report on the operation of the Work Capability Assessment.

Responsibility for administering appeals against decisions on entitlement to benefits lies with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, which is an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that it would be willing to refer any individual request to prioritise an appeal for consideration by a Social Security and Child Support Judge, but this would only be done in exceptional cases.

HEALTH

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 297-8W, on access to work programme, how many disabled employees of his Department are currently being provided with support under his Department's Reasonable Adjustment policy; what proportion of his Department's total workforce such employees represent; and what the cost to his Department of providing such support was in the last 12 months. [68623]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department considers all appropriate requests for reasonable adjustment and relies on professional occupational health advice to ensure agreed adjustments are suitable and beneficial.

The Department does not hold central records of those staff who have a reasonable adjustment in place. Some adjustments are arranged by the local line management chain and can vary from very short-term adjustments (such as a flexible working arrangement for a member of staff returning from a spell of absence) to longer-term adjustments to address more permanent issues.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS accident and emergency departments in England are not open 24 hours a day; and what proportion of NHS accident and emergency departments this represents. [68289]

Mr Simon Burns: Comprehensive information about opening times is not held centrally.

There are 601 accident and emergency departments in England, including independent sector facilities.

Of these, 196 (or 33%) are type one (major) accident and emergency departments. Type one departments by definition provide a 24-hour service. Additionally, some type two (single specialty) and type three (minor injury, walk-in centre and other urgent care) services may be open 24 hours a day.

Alzheimer's Disease: Health Services

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by primary care trusts on the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2009-10. [67982]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally, but the NHS Information Centre has conducted a voluntary survey of primary care trust memory services, covering the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 which includes information on spend. The provisional results of the survey were published on 19 July 2011, by the NHS Information Centre and the full report will be published shortly and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Ambulance Services: Rural Areas

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to enable all ambulance trusts to use national grid references rather than postcodes to locate emergency callers in rural areas. [68591]

Mr Simon Burns: The management of control room functions are for the national health service ambulance service to manage locally. The Department expects trusts to ensure that its control rooms are fit for purpose and have the necessary capacity capability and resilience to deal with the requirements of a modern ambulance service. This includes effective handling of all 999 calls received so the most appropriate response is awarded based on the information the control room receives; which could include location information based on national grid references.

Anaemia

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review NHS guidance on the frequency of GP appointments for treatment of pernicious anaemia. [67513]

Paul Burstow: The Department has issued no guidance to the national health service on the treatment of pernicious anaemia. Professional guidance for general practitioners (GPs) is available from "Clinical Knowledge Summaries" and is summarised in a number of other sources readily accessible to patients and to professionals, including "NHS Choices", the "Map of Medicine" and the website "Patient UK". Current guidance advises GPs to monitor the response to treatment with Vitamin B12 after 10 days, and subsequently after eight weeks to confirm a normal blood count. Subsequent monitoring is generally regarded as unnecessary unless anaemia recurs.

Blood: Contamination

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason payments to haemophiliacs from the Macfarlane Trust and the Skipton Fund are not made payable to a widow, other relative or dependent of the recipient following the death of the recipient from causes attributable to the receipt of contaminated NHS blood products. [68272]

Anne Milton: The Macfarlane Trust is a discretionary scheme and can make payments, based on need, to widows, other relatives and dependents of HIV-infected beneficiaries who have died. The Caxton Foundation will have similar discretion in respect of widows, other relatives and dependents of those infected with hepatitis C when it begins its operations later this year.

Cancer

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* missed diagnoses of cancer, *(b)* radiotherapy errors and *(c)* chemotherapy errors were reported to the National Patient Safety Agency in each year since 1997. [68429]

Paul Burstow: The specific information requested is not available from the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA). The NPSA's National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) does not label data by clinical disorder or procedure, but rather classifies information by the generic category of the patient safety incident; for example, a medication error rather than an anti-cancer medication error.

The NPSA does have some data, derived from thematic reviews on relevant topics, which answer part of the question:

> The NPSA's "A themed review of anticancer medicines" published in 2010, showed that between 1 November 2003 and 30 June 2008 there were 4,839 patients safety incidents involving anti-cancer medicines;
>
> The report "Towards safer radiotherapy" published in 2008 showed that between May 2000 and August 2006, 181 incidents affecting 338 patients were reported in the UK under the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IR(ME)R) 2000; and
>
> The thematic review "Delayed diagnosis of cancer" indicated that between June 2007 and May 2008 around 1,650 patient safety incidents were reported to the NRLS relating to actual or potential delayed cancer diagnosis.

Copies of these documents have been placed in the Library.

Cancer Act 1939

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered the merits of reviewing section 4 of the Cancer Act 1939. [68173]

Paul Burstow: Section 4 of the Cancer Act 1939 states that it is illegal to advertise or promote any medicines, diets or therapies as treatments or cures for cancer. The Government have given no consideration to the merits of reviewing this section of the Act.

The Department last consulted on changes to the Act in 2006 and, subsequent to this, a Legislative Reform Order came into force in October 2008. This removed the need to consult the Attorney-General before bringing a prosecution and made clear that there is discretion on whether or not to prosecute under the Act, rather than a duty to do so.

Cancer: Drugs

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to share good examples of data reporting on the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund among strategic health authorities; and if he will make a statement. [68150]

Paul Burstow: The Department published "Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12" on 23 March 2011. The guidance recommends that strategic health authorities (SHAs) make appropriate Cancer Drugs Fund activity data available on their websites. Activity data may include such items as the number of applications, approvals by drugs and indication. SHAs are recommended to update this information regularly. The guidance also recommends that SHAs make information on expenditure against the fund available on their websites. SHAs are recommended to update this information periodically.

We understand that SHAs are working together to promote best practice in the operation of the fund.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether provision has been made to ensure that monthly and quarterly reporting required under the Department of Health's guidance on the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund will be made publicly available by strategic health authorities on a monthly basis; and if he will make a statement; [68151]

(2) what assessment he has made on the data that have been published by each strategic health authority on the use of the Cancer Drugs Fund since October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [68152]

Paul Burstow: It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs) to decide what information they make available about the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in their area.

The Department published "Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12" on 23 March 2011. The guidance recommends that SHAs make appropriate activity data available on their websites. SHAs are recommended to update this information regularly. It also recommends that information on expenditure against the fund is made available on SHA websites and SHAs are recommended to update this information periodically.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will hold discussions with strategic health authorities who do not follow his Department's guidance on the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund; and if he will make a statement; [68629]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of regional variations in the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund; and if he will make a statement. [68649]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to hold discussions with strategic health authorities (SHAs) on these matters.

The National Cancer Action Team is supporting the national health service in operating the arrangements for the Cancer Drugs Fund through organising national meetings of the SHA leads and facilitating the sharing of information.

The Department published "Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund" in 2011-12 on 23 March 2011. It is for SHA regional clinically-led panels to make decisions on the use of this funding.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Care Homes

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of care homes which may close as a result of the collapse of Southern Cross; [67469]

(2) whether his Department has issued guidance to local authority directors of adult social services on placing residents they fund in care homes where the operator may be an offshore company; [67472]

(3) what *(a)* financial support and *(b)* other support he provides to local authority directors of adult social services to help ensure that new operating companies of care homes where they fund residents have sound financial models. [67473]

Paul Burstow: No such estimate has been made at present. Southern Cross remains in operation and will continue to operate all of its care homes until any transfers to new providers have taken place.

Under the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2010, made by the previous Government under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, responsibility was given to the Care Quality Commission (CQC), as regulator of health and adult social care, for determining questions of the financial viability of care providers.

No guidance regarding the offshore status of care home operators has been issued by the Department to directors of adult social services at any point. The CQC is required to satisfy itself that any prospective care provider is capable of delivering safe, high quality care and of meeting all regulatory requirements and standards.

Care Quality Commission

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were referred to the Care Quality Commission for independent review in each year since 1997. [68177]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) does not have responsibility for second stage complaints (the independent review stage). In order to get resolution on concerns about care services, complainants should contact the provider in the first instance. If a complainant is unhappy with the response received from the provider, the complainant may then take their complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman for consideration.

The only predecessor organisation of CQC with responsibilities for second stage complaints was the Healthcare Commission (HCC) which was responsible for reviewing complaints about NHS services. The following table shows the number of second stage complaints received by HCC from July 2004 to 31 March 2009.

Financial year	*Healthcare Commission*
2008-09	6,783
2007-08	7,500
2006-07	6,570
2005-06	7,577
2004-05[1]	5,707

[1] Healthcare Commission took on the role of reviewing second stage complaints in July 2004.

Cystic Fibrosis: Nurses

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to support the provision of cystic fibrosis specialist nurse services in England. [68172]

Mr Simon Burns: Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the work force they need.

Advertising

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms in each year since 1997-98; and how much it has so spent in total. [68215]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables outline the specific costs relating to the Department's advertising spend 1997-98 to 2003-04 financial years and advertising spend broken down into television, radio and newspaper media for 2004-05 on. To provide a breakdown from 1997-2004 would incur disproportionate cost.

The financial information is not available in the format requested and to provide the information in real and nominal terms would incur disproportionate costs.

Department of Health media spend 1997-98 to 2003-04 financial years

	£ million
1997-98	2.04
1998-99	8.53
1999-2000	15.70
2000-01	20.78
2001-02	20.35
2002-03	24.85
2003-04	41.12

Department of Health media spend on radio, television and newspapers, 2004-05 to 2010-11 financial years

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Television	17.77	13.82	11.05	10.25	23.73	28.73	1.33
Radio	3.74	4.09	3.53	3.16	5.10	6.58	0.57
Newspapers	8.74	5.22	4.60	4.93	11.88	10.79	1.86
Total	30.25	23.13	19.18	18.34	40.71	46.10	3.76

[1] Figures are provisional.

Notes:

1. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT).
2. These figures do not include the Department's recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000.
3. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this spreadsheet reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms between (A) May 2006 and June 2007 and (B) June 2009 and May 2010; and what the total cost to the public purse was. [68378]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available in the required format. To produce the information outside complete financial years and in real and nominal terms would incur disproportionate costs.

The following chart shows the Department's spend in the requested media over the four financial years covered by the scope of the question.

Departmental media spend on radio, television and newspapers

£million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Television	11.05	10.25	28.73	1.33
Radio	3.53	3.16	6.58	0.57
Newspapers	4.60	4.93	10.79	1.86
Total	19.18	18.34	46.10	3.76

[1] Figures are provisional

Notes:

1. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information (COI) commission and VAT).
2. These figures do not include the Department's recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000.
3. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by national health service organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this spreadsheet reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

Departmental Billing

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many payments to contractors have been made late by his Department in each financial year since 1997; and what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* penalty charges and *(b)* interest for such late payments. [68211]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department operates standard contractual payment terms of 30 days and any payments that are delayed beyond that date may be subject to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. The Act states that suppliers who are not paid within 30 days of the receipt of the invoice by the party billed are entitled to claim interest on the delayed payment at a rate of 8% above the Bank of England base reference rate. Penalty payments may be due where a small or medium-sized business obtains a ruling that any contract terms that were applied were grossly unfair.

Details of the penalty and interest charges paid by the Department in each financial year since 1997-98 are given in the following table. Data are only available from 2001-02 when the Department introduced an Oracle based finance system (Vista), which allowed for such payment information to be collected.

	Number of late payments	*Penalty charges (£)*	*Interest charges (£)*
1997-98	n/a	—	—
1998-99	n/a	—	—
1999-2000	n/a	—	—
2000-01	n/a	—	—
2001-02	19,791	—	—
2002-03	17,412	—	—
2003-04	12,332	—	—
2004-05	21,802	—	—
2005-06	11,209	—	—
2006-07	9,929	135,000	—
2007-08	1,953	—	—
2008-09	1,161	—	91
2009-10	1,855	—	—
2010-11	1,525	—	183

n/a = Not available

It should be noted that these data cover all payments made by the Department and therefore include both commercial and non-commercial suppliers. No separate analysis of "contractor" payments is available.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many late payments his Department has made to contractors between *(a)* May 2006 and June 2007 and *(b)* June 2009 and May 2010; and what the total cost to the public purse was of any (i) penalty charges or (ii) interest charges incurred in those periods. [68319]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department operates standard contractual payment terms of 30 days and any payments that are delayed beyond that date may be subject to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. The Act states that suppliers who are not paid within 30 days of the receipt of the invoice by the party billed are entitled to claim interest on the delayed payment at a rate of 8% above the Bank of England base reference rate. Penalty payments may be due where a small or medium-sized business obtains a ruling that any contract terms that were applied were grossly unfair.

The records available relate to financial years rather than the specific months requested and so cover the periods 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 and 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 respectively. Details of the penalty and interest charges paid by the Department in each of these periods are given in the following table.

	Number of late payments	*Penalty charges (£)*	*Interest charges (£)*
2006-07	9,929	135,000	0
2009-10	1,855	0	0

It should be noted that these data cover all payments made by the Department and therefore include both commercial and non-commercial suppliers. No separate analysis of "contractor" payments is available.

Communications Research

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's total expenditure on communications research has been in each financial year since 1997; and how much was spent on *(a)* reports on the public perceptions of the NHS, *(b)* stakeholder surveys, *(c)* national media evaluations and *(d)* other communications research. [68216]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's expenditure on all research commissioned through the Central Office of Information (COI) for the financial years 2001-02 to 2010-11 is as follows. Financial records do not provide this breakdown prior to 2001-02.

The expenditure figures cover all research commissioned by Department through COI for the years in question, so will include projects which are not communications-related. It would incur disproportionate cost to isolate research expenditure related to communications only.

It would also incur disproportionate cost to provide the breakdown of expenditure as requested—i.e. reports on the public perceptions of the national health service, stakeholder surveys, national media evaluations and other communications research.

This does not include costs of research which the Department commissioned directly (not via COI), which are not held centrally.

	Total expenditure (£)
2001-02	942,015
2002-03	1,608,639
2003-04	1,595,060
2004-05	1,816,376
2005-06	2,797,289
2006-07	2,037,048
2007-08	5,130,766
2008-09	7,743,013
2009-10	11,137,981
2010-11	9,549,616
Total	44,357,801

Departmental Internet Services

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on the use by commercial companies of web pages offering registration for his Department's services for a fee in cases where his Department offers registration free of charge; and what steps his Department takes to optimise search engine results for its web pages offering free registration; [68079]

(2) if he will discuss with *(a)* Google and *(b)* other search engine providers strategies to ensure that his Department's webpage offering free registration for European Health Insurance Cards appears in search results above websites of commercial companies charging a fee for such registrations; [68080]

(3) what measures are available to his Department to prevent commercial companies charging fees for web applications for European Health Insurance Cards; [68081]

(4) what information his Department holds on the number of services offered by his Department requiring registration to secure an entitlement for which his Department offers registration free of charge but for which commercial companies charge a fee for registration through a website; [68082]

(5) what information his Department holds on companies who charge for registration for the issue to UK nationals of the European Health Insurance Card. [68083]

Anne Milton: The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) originates from European regulations concerning the free movement of migrant workers around Europe, and it is likely that any charge to the citizen that is over and above the cost of producing the card would be seen as a barrier to citizens accessing their rights in Europe.

It is free of charge to apply for the card in the United Kingdom online, by phone or by post directly through the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA), which administers EHIC applications and renewals on behalf of the Department.

Since the card's introduction in the UK, several websites have set up providing a service whereby, for a charge of around £10, they check a citizen's EHIC application and forward the application to the NHS BSA. These websites can be misleading: they sponsor links on search engines so that they appear above the Government's websites; they use official sounding language and official looking images on their websites; and they sometimes do not make it clear enough that it is free to apply directly through the NHS BSA.

The EHIC application website and the NHS Choices website, which provides information about the EHIC, are currently the top two non-sponsored results on Google, and also feature highly on other similar search engines. The Department has also amended the wording on its website to make it clearer that there is no need to pay for the EHIC, and has taken steps to ensure that this messaging appears in the descriptions of its results on Google and other search engines.

All digital content published on NHS Choices and on the Department's website is designed to perform well in search results.

While the Department does not have specific details about each company that charges for checking applications for the EHIC, it has referred several websites that offer such services to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), for it to investigate and take appropriate action. On 14 July 2011, the OFT announced new investigations into the deceptive online selling of Government services, in particular those that are usually low cost or free of charge.

The Department does not hold information on the number of commercial companies charging a fee for registration through a website for services offered by the Department free of charge, nor does it have a general policy on commercial companies offering services for a fee.

Special Advisers

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* names and *(b)* dates of service were of each special adviser in his Department since May 1997; and what the total cost to the public purse was for employing such advisers in each year between 1997 and 2010. [68191]

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department between (i) May 2006 and June 2007 and (ii) June 2009 and May 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was in (A) cash and (B) real terms of such appointments. [68332]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Kingswood (Chris Skidmore) on 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 633-34W.

Marketing

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on promotional merchandise branded with his Department's name in each financial year since 1997-98. [68219]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department advises against the use of departmental branding on products, other than on occasional low-value promotional items to support specific internal initiatives or conferences. Any such items are procured by individual teams within the Department and the Department does not hold central records on which items were procured and at what cost. To provide this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Mobile Phones

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mobile telephones and BlackBerrys were provided to staff in his Department in each financial year since 1997; and what the cost to the public purse has been for *(a)* line rental, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* the purchase of the handset. [68207]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold detailed information on the total number of mobile telephone and BlackBerry devices allocated to staff throughout the periods requested. The following table shows the number of active BlackBerry and mobile phone devices in use by staff at the end of each of the requested financial year periods:

Financial year end	*BlackBerry*	*Mobile telephones*
1997-2005	n/a	n/a
2005-06	78	n/a
2006-07	480	n/a
2007-08	756	n/a
2008-09	1,098	n/a
2009-10	1,409	476
2010-11	1,168	590

The number of active mobile telephones in issue to staff is sourced from the Department's Human Resource system and not available as an historical snapshot prior to 2009-10. To obtain that information would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department does not hold the expenditure information requested in the required format for the required period. The total expenditure on mobile phone services for financial years 2006-07 to 2010-11 was:

Mobile telephony expenditure -1997 to 2011

Financial year	*Total costs (£)*
1997-06	n/a
2006-07	780,987
2007-08	760,973
2008-09	897,002
2009-10	982,193
2010-11	687,193

Included within these total costs are handset and line rental contracts, call and data charges for mobile telephone, BlackBerry devices and 3G data cards. The Department does not pay insurance for mobile devices.

Prior to 2006-07, mobile telephony costs were payable from local rather than central departmental budgets and are therefore unavailable.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mobile telephones and BlackBerrys were provided to staff in his Department between *(a)* May 2006 and June 2007 and *(b)* June 2009 and May 2010; and what the total cost to the public purse was of (i) line rental, (ii) insurance and (iii) the purchase of such telecommunications equipment. [68322]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold detailed information on the total number of mobile telephone and BlackBerry devices allocated to staff throughout the period requested. The following tables show the number of active BlackBerry and mobile phone devices in use by staff at the start and end of the requested periods:

Period	*Active BlackBerry devices*	*Active mobile telephones*
May 2006	140	n/a
June 2007	548	n/a
June 2009	1,295	590
May 2010	1,450	467

The number of active mobile telephones in issue to staff is sourced from the Department's Human Resource system and data for May 2006 and June 2007 were not recorded on the system at that time.

The Department does not hold the expenditure information requested in the required format. The total expenditure on mobile phone services for financial years 2006-07 and 2009-10 was:

Mobile telephony expenditure

Financial year	*Total costs (£)*
2006-07	780,987
2009-10	982,193

Included within these total costs are handset and line rental contracts, call and data charges for mobile phone, BlackBerry devices and 3G data cards. The Department does not pay insurance for mobile devices.

Official Cars

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse has been for *(a)* cars leased by his Department to staff and *(b)* ministerial chauffeurs in each financial year since 1997. [68208]

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* cars leased by his Department to staff and *(b)* ministerial chauffeurs between (i) May 2006 and June 2007 and (ii) June 2009 and May 2010. [68381]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the costs of cars leased by the Department to staff since 1997-98 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regarding the costs of ministerial chauffeurs, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bristol West (Stephen Williams) on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1055-56W.

Departmental Pay

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual salary was of staff working in his Department in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms in each financial year since 1997-98. [68221]

Mr Simon Burns: Information available on the average annual salary of staff working in the Department in nominal and real terms is given in the following table:

Financial year	*Nominal average salary*	*Real terms average salary*
2003-04	34,029	41,261
2004-05	37,758	44,907
2005-06	39,882	46,588
2006-07	41,629	47,182
2007-08	42,855	47,434
2008-09	44,078	47,410
2009-10	44,350	46,147
2010-11 to date	45,053	45,053

The above column of real terms (inflation-adjusted) figures are calculated using the consumer price index obtaining on 31 March for each year for which salary information is available.

The Department changed its payroll provider in 2003-04, so to retrieve the requested information for prior years would require recourse to individual salary records and would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* newspapers, magazines and periodicals, *(b)* landscape gardening and *(c)* flora in his Department in each financial year since 1997-98. [68220]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table gives expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals purchased for library use since 1997-98 and, until March 2010, for retention by individual units. Expenditure by individual units since April 2010 is not available.

Departmental expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
1997-98	415,890
1998-99	423,560
1999-2000	419,490
2000-01	423,160
2001-02	469,880
2002-03	356,510
2003-04	350,036
2004-05	380,025
2005-06	395,148
2006-07	350,930
2007-08	317,386
2008-09	298,022
2009-10	249,152
2010-11	136,223

The Department's previous contract for the provision of horticultural services to its London Estate expired November 2010. As a result, we are unable to provide the previous annual costs due to the change of provider. However, for the last year of the contract, the annual spend was £17,123.54.

Under the new contract, the departmental spend for horticultural services for the period December 2010 to November 2011 will be £7,185.40.

We are unable to break down these figures further.

Departmental Expendditure: Rail Travel

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* train travel and *(b)* first-class train travel in each financial year since 1997 by (i) officials in his Department, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) special advisers in his Department. [68209]

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* first-class and *(b)* all train travel by (i) Ministers, (ii) staff and (iii) special advisers in his Department between (A) May 2006 and June 2007 and (B) June 2009 and May 2010. [68339]

Mr Simon Burns: Data from our central travel contracts are not available before April 2004. It is not possible to distinguish between travellers without incurring disproportionate cost. The cost of first-class rail travel and all rail travel from the central travel contract is as follows:

		£
	First-class rail	*Total rail spend*
April 2004 to March 2005	3,143,724	3,787,008
April 2005 to March 2006	4,004,085	5,369,085
April 2006 to March 2007	3,094,069	4,675,029
April 2007 to March 2008	3,594,495	5,271,933
April 2008 to March 2009	4,795,247	7,231,797
April 2009 to March 2010	3,647,863	6,751,888
April 2010 to March 2011	1,028,718	4,216,641
May 2006 to June 2007	4,469,481	6,580,494
June 2009 to May 2010	4,025,146	6,586,998

Stationery

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was for stationery purchases by his Department in each financial year between 1997 and 2010. [68206]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on stationery spend is not held centrally before 2006. Spend on stationery purchased through the stationery contract for the Department since 2006 is as follows:

	£
April 2005 to March 2006	1,648,905.29
April 2006 to March 2007	1,472,923.37
April 2007 to March 2008	776,550.73
April 2008 to March 2009	690,632.74
April 2009 to March 2010	404,888.66
April 2010 to March 2011	231,049.81

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the public purse was of stationery purchased by his Department between *(a)* May 2006 and June 2007 and *(b)* June 2009 and May 2010. [68391]

Mr Simon Burns: Spend on stationery purchased through the stationery contract for the Department was:

May 2006 to June 2007: £1,596,546.96

June 2009 to May 2010: £388,306.35.

Departmental Training

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* team-building excursions have taken place in his Department in each financial year between 1997 and 2010; and if he will publish (i) the date of each event, (ii) the location of each event, (iii) the number of attendees and (iv) the itemised cost to the public purse for each event. [68176]

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location, *(c)* number of attendees and *(d)* cost to the public purse was for each (i) away day and (ii) team-building activity organised for staff in his Department between (A) May 2006 and June 2007 and (B) June 2009 and May 2010. [68336]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is strongly committed to developing its staff and equipping them with the skills, knowledge and expertise they need to carry out their work roles effectively. Away days and team-building events make a significant contribution to such development.

Away days and team-building activities are typically arranged by individual teams in the Department. No central records of these events are kept so extracting the requested data would incur disproportionate costs.

Diseases: Health Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the effects of early diagnosis and treatment of (i) cancer and (ii) other diseases; and if he will make a statement. [68142]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Policy Research Programme (PRP) fund a wide range of research relating to early diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other diseases.

The PRP is funding the Policy Research Unit in Cancer Awareness, Screening and Early Diagnosis at Queen Mary university of London.

The NIHR School for Primary Care Research comprises the leading academic centres for primary care research in England. One of the school's five programmes of research is in prevention and early diagnosis.

NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs) are collaborative partnerships between a university and the surrounding national health service organisations, focused on improving patient outcomes through the conduct and application of applied health research. Many of the nine CLAHRCs have research and implementation themes relating to early diagnosis and treatment.

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) can be found on the CCF website at:

www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/FundedProgrammes.aspx

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Centre (NETSCC) can be found on the NETSCC website at:

www.netscc.ac.uk

Details of studies hosted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Details of research funded by the PRP are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Researchanddevelopment/Policyresearchprogramme/index.htm

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on national health service expenditure of the *(a)* early diagnosis and *(b)* treatment of (i) cancer and (ii) other diseases; and if he will make a statement; [68143]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the effects on mortality rates of the early *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment of (i) cancer and (ii) other diseases; and if he will make a statement; [68146]

(3) what plans he has to improve early *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment of (i) cancer and (ii) other diseases; and if he will make a statement. [68147]

Paul Burstow: We are providing £750 million over the next four years to support the national health service to deliver "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January 2011. The strategy sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through early diagnosis of symptomatic cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy treatment.

It is now accepted that late diagnosis is one of the main reasons our cancer survival rates are worse than many other European countries. To understand the reasons for this disparity we are leading an International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership to explore the impact of the stage of diagnosis and access to treatment by surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy on avoidable deaths from cancer.

We know that for many other conditions earlier diagnosis is also an important factor in delivering better outcomes. That is why to achieve earlier diagnosis of dementia, we are working in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society on the Living Well with Dementia campaign. In March we launched a one-month pilot in the north-west and Yorkshire and the Humber to help people to recognise dementia symptoms and we are now evaluating the impact of the campaign.

Our Mental Health Strategy, "No Health Without Mental Health", also highlights the importance of prevention and early intervention, as half of those with lifetime mental health problems first experience symptoms before the age of 14. This is why we are working in partnership with the Department for Education and schools to consider how schools can best support children and on the roll-out of interventions to help the most vulnerable children.

Prevention as well as earlier diagnosis is an important factor in delivering better outcomes. This is why we are undertaking prevention activity in a number of areas. For example, through the NHS Health Check we are working to identify people aged 40-74 at risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and to support them to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice and support.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is also developing a range of Quality Standards to support the early diagnosis and treatment of people with a wide range of conditions.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department, *(c)* other Ministers and *(d)* officials in his Department plan to attend the UN Non-Communicable Diseases high level meeting in September 2011; and if he will make a statement. [68145]

Anne Milton: We expect a Health Minister to attend the UN high level meeting in September and to be supported by officials as appropriate. A final decision on the composition of the United Kingdom delegation will be made closer to the time. The decision will take into account how best to represent UK interests, given the domestic and global priority attached to tackling non-communicable diseases, as well as the need for efficient use of taxpayers' money in funding overseas trips.

Doctors: Communication Skills

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training in communications skills new doctors are required to undertake. [68160]

Anne Milton: Communication skills are an important part of medical training. The content and standard of medical training is the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC), which is the competent authority for medical training in the United Kingdom. The GMC is an independent professional body.

The GMC has statutory responsibility to determine the extent and knowledge and skill required for the granting of primary medical qualifications in the UK. Its recommendations on undergraduate medical education are contained in "Tomorrow's Doctors" (2009) which includes clear guidance on ensuring doctors are able to communicate effectively with patients.

The next stage of training after graduation from a medical school is the Foundation Programme which is managed by the UK Foundation Programme Office. The Foundation Programme curriculum sets out specific competences which doctors must acquire in their relationship with patients and in communication skills.

Postgraduate medical training curricula are developed by the medical Royal Colleges with common competences that should be acquired by all doctors identified by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in their document "Competences Framework for Doctors" (2009). This also contains guidance on communication skills and interaction with patients.

Drugs: Health Education

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's expenditure was on the FRANK drug awareness campaign in each year since its introduction. [68430]

Anne Milton: FRANK is the national drugs internet information and advice service funded by the Department, the Home Office and the Department for Education. The Department contributed the following amounts by year to the FRANK campaign. (In this context, the FRANK campaign refers to all communication activity including the helpline, website, SMS, email, Bot, literature, and all marketing and public relations activity.)

	£
2003-04	1,750,000
2004-05	2,620,000
2005-06	3,260,000
2006-07	3,130,000
2007-08	2,000,000
2008-09	2,400,000
2009-10	2,000,000
2010-11	152,000

Drugs: Young People

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many young people between the ages of 16 and 18 were treated for substance misuse in each of the last five years; and what proportion of these young people were care leavers. [68229]

Anne Milton: Figures for the numbers of young people between the ages of 16 and 18 accessing substance misuse services were reported in "Substance misuse among young people: the data for 2009-10", published by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in December 2010. The following table, taken from the report, contains the most recently published data.

Numbers accessing substance misuse services: trends for 16 to 18-year-olds

Age	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
16-17	4,347	5,315	5,987	6,133	5,823
17-18	4,780	6,019	6,624	6,663	6,701

Source:
National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring system (NDTMS) does not collect data on young people who are care leavers.

Epilepsy: Older People

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what (1) assessment he has made of the level of care offered by the NHS to older people with epilepsy; and if he will make a statement; [67744]

(2) information his Department holds on the proportion of over-65s with epilepsy who have *(a)* attended a first seizure clinic, *(b)* been referred to tertiary services, *(c)* received an individual care plan and *(d)* had an epilepsy review in the last 12 months; [67795]

(3) information his Department holds on the proportion of over-65s with epilepsy who have been treated in accordance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines of 2004; [67796]

(4) information his Department holds on the proportion of NHS geriatricians who have received training in epilepsy. [67797]

Paul Burstow: None of the information requested is collected by the Department. Local health bodies have the responsibility for ensuring they commission services to meet the local needs of all their resident population living with epilepsy.

Health professionals have responsibility for using their clinical judgement to decide on the appropriate care for an individual, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines are not mandatory.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department holds on the level of *(a)* misdiagnosis and *(b)* referral for surgery in over-65s with epilepsy; [67798]

(2) what information his Department holds on the proportion of over-65s with epilepsy who *(a)* are free from seizures, *(b)* have access to an epilepsy specialist nurse and *(c)* have been seen by an epilepsy specialist neurologist in the last 12 months; [67799]

(3) what information his Department holds on trends in mortality due to epilepsy in the over-65s; [67800]

(4) what information his Department holds on the incidence of epilepsy in *(a)* the over-65s and *(b)* the over-80s. [67801]

Paul Burstow: None of the information requested is collected by the Department.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* estimate his Department has made and *(b)* data it has on the probable cost of adding fluoride to the water supply in Southampton and Totton; and what account he will take of opposition by (i) the public and (ii) relevant local authorities when deciding whether to make Government funds available for this purpose. [68310]

Anne Milton: Under Section 87 of the Water Industry Act 1991 strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for fluoridation. The only estimate of the cost of the Southampton scheme held by the Department is the figure of £471,000 included in the consultation document published by South Central SHA in September 2008. We understand that the SHA intends to fund implementation of the scheme from its capital allocation, which it may use at its discretion.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects local authorities to take over responsibility for deciding if water supplies should be fluoridated; and whether this *(a)* could and *(b)* will be earlier than the delayed date for the abolition of strategic health authorities. [68311]

Anne Milton: Following the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the NHS Future Forum, strategic health authorities will now continue in place up until April 2013. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011, which contains the necessary legislative changes, local authorities will become responsible for consultations on fluoridation schemes from April 2013.

General Practitioners

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS GP consultations have taken place in each year since 1997-98. [68287]

Mr Simon Burns: Figures on the actual numbers of patients who were seen by a general practitioner (GP) are not collected. The latest data on the estimated number of GP consultations, based on a sample, in England are available and shown as follows:

	Estimated number of GP consultations in England per year
1997	163,200,000
1998	158,200,000
1999	155,500,000
2000	155,100,000
2001	161,900,000
2002	162,100,000
2003	168,900,000
2004	170,900,000
2005	175,400,000
2006	181,400,000
2007	185,300,000
2008	189,000,000

Note:
Data on GP Consultations have not been collected since 2008.
Source:
NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care/QResearch: Trends in Consultations Rates in General Practice 1995 to 2008: Analysis of the QResearch Database.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP appointments have been made in England in each year since 1997; and how many of these appointments have been *(a)* missed or *(b)* rescheduled in each year since 1997. [68294]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data centrally on numbers of general practitioner appointments, nor on those missed or rescheduled.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reviews his Department has produced of *(a)* practice-based commissioning, *(b)* GP fund holding and *(c)* total purchasing; and if he will publish those reviews. [68424]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment that was published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January contains a review of general practitioner fund holding, total purchasing pilots and practice-based commissioning. No further formal reviews have been produced by the Department.

Health Professions: Manpower

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* health visitors, *(c)* nurses and *(d)* school nurses there were per capita in England in each year since 1997. [68223]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table gives the numbers requested in each year since 1997.

Total general practitioners (GPs), health visitors, nursing staff and school nurses per capita in England as at 1997-2010

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Total headcount							
Total GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	28,046	28,251	28,467	28,593	28,802	29,202	30,358
Total qualified nursing staff	318,856	323,457	329,637	335,952	350,381	367,520	386,359
of which:							
Health visitors	12,410	12,572	12,800	12,827	13,053	12,774	12,984
School nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	476
Headcount per 100,000 population							
Total GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	57.6	57.9	58.1	58.1	58.2	58.8	60.9
Total qualified nursing staff	655.2	662.5	672.3	682.4	708.6	740.2	774.8
of which:							
Health visitors	25.5	25.8	26.1	26.1	26.4	25.7	26.0
School nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.0

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Total headcount							
Total GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	31,523	32,738	33,091	33,364	34,010	35,917	35,120
Total qualified nursing staff	397,515	404,161	398,335	399,597	408,160	417,164	410,615
of which:							
Health visitors	13,303	12,818	12,034	11,569	11,190	10,859	10,375
School nurses	856	943	1,129	1,227	1,447	1,620	1,467
Headcount per 100,000 population							
Total GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	62.9	64.9	65.2	65.3	66.1	69.3	67.2
Total qualified nursing staff	793.3	800.9	784.7	781.9	793.1	805.2	786.1
of which:							
Health visitors	26.5	25.4	23.7	22.6	21.7	21.0	19.9
School nurses	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.8	3.1	2.8

n/a = Not available. School nurses did not become a mandatory return until 2004. Figures for 2003 may not represent a full dataset.

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers.

Notes:

1. Data as at 30 September for each year except GP data 1997-99, as at 1 October.
2. Per Capita statistics displayed are staff numbers per 100,000 head of population in England, using Office for National Statistics resident population estimates for each year.
3. Total qualified nursing staff includes GP practice nurses.

Data quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census Office for National Statistics.
3. 1997-2010 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (1991, 2001 census based). 2002-08 data was adjusted May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration.

Health Professions: Pay

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish instructions given by Ministers in his Department to the Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration Board between 1997 and 2010. [68421]

Mr Simon Burns: The terms of reference given to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) between 1997-2010 is published in the DDRB review body reports. Copies of these reports have already been placed in the Library. There was no formal DDRB report for 2011. The approach for the 2011-12 DDRB pay round is set out in Secretary of State's letter of 19 August 2010 to the DDRB Chair. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library. The four Health Departments also commissioned, in August 2010, a review of:

> "compensation levels, incentives and the Clinical Excellence and Distinction award schemes for NHS consultants."

A copy of the terms of reference for this review has also been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the NHS budget of providing NHS treatment for non-EU nationals. [67453]

Mr Simon Burns: Entitlement to free national health service hospital treatment is based on residency in the United Kingdom. Some categories of visitors are also exempted from charges as set out in the 'NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011'. Through these regulations some non-European Union nationals will receive free treatment. The Department does not hold data on the nationality of those whose treatment is provided for by the NHS budget.

Other non-EU nationals, together with UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident here are charged by hospitals for the costs of their treatment. Some charges are not recovered creating a cost to the NHS. The following table shows the total audited losses, bad debts and claims abandoned for all chargeable patients for years 2007-08 to 2009-10, for England.

	Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients (£)
2007-08	6,468,751
2008-09	5,204,856
2009-10	6,967,780

Note:

We do not collect data from NHS foundation trusts so figures exclude these sites.

Source:

NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

On 18 March 2011, we published a response to an earlier consultation on 'Access to the NHS by Foreign Nationals'. In this response, we announced that the Government will conduct a full, wide-ranging review of the rules and practices relating to charging overseas visitors for using the NHS. It is hoped that this will be completed and put out to public consultation by early next year.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many non-UK EU nationals were treated by the NHS in each of the last five years; [67960]

(2) what costs for NHS treatment of non-UK EU nationals were *(a)* reimbursed by the relevant member state and *(b)* not eligible for reimbursement in the latest period for which figures are available; and whether there is a maximum amount other EU member states will pay for treatment of their citizens by the NHS; [67961]

(3) what estimate he has made of the costs of treating non-UK EU nationals on the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [67962]

Anne Milton: Under European Union (EU) Regulations, the United Kingdom is entitled to claim back the full costs of treating citizens from the EU if they access national health service treatment as a state pensioner and their dependent, a temporary visitor, a posted worker by a company in another member state or a dependent of a worker. Under these Regulations, the expected value of UK claims for 2009-10 against other member states is £57 million.

Member states are not entitled to claim back the costs of treating citizens, of working age, who are lawfully resident and working in that member state, irrespective of nationality. This is because such individuals are contributing to the social security system of that country. Consequently, the Department does not hold data as to how many non UK EU nationals were treated, or the associated cost.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that patients admitted to NHS hospitals who are not entitled to free NHS treatment are obliged to refund costs; [67490]

(2) what recent representations he has received in respect of the cost of treatment provided by the NHS to patients who are not entitled to free NHS treatment; [67491]

(3) what his policy is in respect of claiming the cost of treatment provided by the NHS to patients who are not entitled to free NHS treatment. [67492]

Anne Milton: The 'NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011' impose a statutory duty on national health service hospitals to identify persons who are chargeable and to make and recover such charges from them.

The Department's 'Guidance on Implementing the Overseas Visitors Hospital Charging Regulations', makes clear that hospitals are obliged to recover debts and should pursue them to whatever extent they consider reasonable in the circumstances. They have the option to write off debts when it would not be reasonable to pursue them, such as when the patient is genuinely without funds or has died, or attempts to secure the debt are unsuccessful. I understand that most hospitals choose to make use of debt recovery companies if initial attempts at recovery prove unsuccessful.

In its response to a public consultation on 18 March 2011, the Home Office announced plans to refuse further requests for visas to enter or remain in the United Kingdom for persons with unpaid debts for NHS treatment in excess of £1,000. These new immigration rules are expected to be introduced in the autumn.

A search of the Department's correspondence database has identified 43 items of correspondence received since 1 January 2011 about the cost of treatment provided by the NHS to patients who are not entitled to free NHS treatment. This is a minimum figure which represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team only. Over the same period, the Department has also received 16 parliamentary questions.

On 18 March 2011, Ministers published a response to an earlier consultation on 'Access to the NHS by Foreign Nationals' that had received 166 responses. In their response, Ministers announced that the Government will conduct a full, wide-ranging review of the rules and practices relating to charging overseas visitors for using the NHS. It is hoped that this will report early next year.

Hospital Beds

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* beds and *(b)* beds per 100,000 population there were (i) in the NHS and (ii) in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997-98; [68288]

(2) how many acute care beds per 100,000 population have been provided in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority area in each financial year since 1997-98. [68297]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish any reviews commissioned by his Department regarding Mixed Sex Accommodation in NHS trusts between 1997 and 2010. [68423]

Mr Simon Burns: Mixed sex accommodation has no place in a modern national health service that puts patients first. The greater transparency that this Government have introduced has now driven unjustified instances of mixed sex accommodation down by over 84% since December 2010.

During the period in question, major reviews of progress were carried out in 2004 (published 2005), 2007 and 2009. These reviews, "Elimination of Mixed Sex Hospital Accommodation, Privacy and Dignity—a report by the Chief Nursing Officer into mixed sex accommodation in hospitals" and "The Story so far—Delivering same-sex accommodation—a progress report" respectively, have been placed in the Library.

In addition, a number of less formal exercises to gather information were undertaken. The cost to identify and publish these reviews is deemed to be disproportionate.

Hospitals: Admissions

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency bed days there have been in the NHS in England *(a)* in total and *(b)* expressed as a proportion of the total number of bed days in each financial year since 1997-98. [68224]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is in the following table.

Total finished consultant episode (FCE) bed days and count and proportion of FCE bed days[1] where the method of admission[2] was a emergency in England from 1997-98 to 2009-10[3]: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Total FCE bed days	*Emergency FCE bed days*	*Proportion of emergency FCE bed days (percentage)*
2009-10	51,493,494	33,266,856	64.6
2008-09	51,841,443	33,275,501	64.2
2007-08	51,106,621	32,457,693	63.5
2006-07	53,137,106	33,937,718	63.9
2005-06	56,943,948	36,006,043	63.2
2004-05	58,399,338	37,130,383	63.6
2003-04	58,375,301	37,340,322	64.0
2002-03	59,290,919	37,188,864	62.7
2001-02	61,073,567	36,740,738	60.2
2000-01	59,577,050	36,605,598	61.4
1999-2000	59,494,196	35,366,436	59.4
1998-99	62,952,038	35,681,917	56.7
1997-98	64,842,364	35,713,337	55.1

[1] Episode duration (FCE bed days)
Episode duration is calculated as the difference in days between the episode start date and the episode end date, where both are given. Episode duration is based on FCEs and only applies to ordinary admissions, i.e. day cases are excluded (unless otherwise stated).

[2] Method of admission
This is the sum of the episode duration for all FCEs that ended within the financial year. This field does not include bed days where the episode was unfinished at the end of the financial year. To identify bed days as emergency bed days we have filtered the total bed days figures by admission method indicating the admission was an emergency (codes 21 to 24 and 28).

21 = Emergency: via Accident and Emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 = Emergency: via general practitioner (GP)
23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 = Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider

[3] Assessing growth through time
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Note:
Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English IMHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency readmissions there have been in the NHS in each financial year since 1997-98; and what the rate of patients readmitted as an emergency in the NHS was for each such year. [68286]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of emergency admissions within 28 days of previous discharge from hospital, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total number of hospital admissions, is set out in the following table for the years currently available. Admissions for maternity and obstetrics, mental health specialities, and cancer treatment are excluded. Figures for different years are not fully comparable because of differences in case mix.

Emergency readmissions

National summary of data from the "Compendium of clinical and health indicators", NCHOD June 2011

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total number of emergency readmissions within 28 days of previous discharge[1]											
0-15	60,531	60,334	59,268	62,092	61,411	62,714	66,014	72,347	72,856	77,655	82,869
16-74	204,905	207,017	210,914	212,302	216,541	243,268	268,251	292,754	302,021	309,658	331,851
75+	94,283	96,329	99,262	101,865	108,607	123,672	139,007	152,279	154,056	159,135	176,701
All ages	359,719	363,680	369,444	376,259	386,559	429,654	473,272	517,380	528,933	546,448	591,421
Number of emergency readmissions as a proportion of all admissions (percentage)[2]											
0-15	8.09	8.22	8.30	8.44	8.52	8.49	8.91	9.38	9.53	10.01	10.35
16-74	7.25	7.45	7.57	7.69	7.67	8.09	8.63	9.01	9.25	9.39	9.80
75+	10.46	10.80	11.05	11.23	11.66	12.36	13.29	13.90	13.91	14.08	14.61
All ages	8.04	8.25	8.40	8.55	8.63	9.05	9.67	10.12	10.30	10.50	10.96

[1] Emergency readmissions are defined as emergency admissions within 28 days of discharge from hospital from a previous admission. The two admissions do not have to be for the same condition or at the same hospital. Episodes coded as maternity or mental health, or episodes with a diagnosis of cancer, are excluded. See the NCHOD website for further detail on the definitions.

[2] Figures for different years are not directly comparable because of changes in case mix. For a comparable run of figures, standardised to adjust for differences in age, sex, method of admission, diagnosis and procedure see the detailed tables on the NCHOD website.

Source:

National Centre for Health Outcomes Development "Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base", June 2011. Now maintained by the NHS Information Centre and available at

http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/

Data for 1998-99 is from the previous update of the compendium and may not be fully comparable with that for later years.

Hospitals: Information

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of potential cost savings in using existing patient bedside systems to deliver information to *(a)* patients and *(b)* service users. [68670]

Mr Simon Burns: No assessments have been made of potential cost savings in using the existing patient bedside systems in delivering information to patients and service users. The Department does not collect information relating to the cost of these services.

It is not appropriate for Ministers to become involved in the micromanagement of these services; these are matters for national health service organisations to determine locally.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the size of the NHS waiting list per 100,000 population was in each year since 1997. [68427]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the available data for total numbers of patients waiting for an in-patient admission, for a first out-patient appointment and on referral to treatment (RTT) pathways and the numbers per 100,000 population, at the end of March in each financial year from 1996-97 to 2010-11.

	In-patient waiting list	*Out-patient waiting list*	*RTT incomplete pathways*	*England population (Thousands)*	*In-patient waiting list per 100,000 population*	*Out-patient waiting list per 100,000 population*	*RTT incomplete pathways per 100,000 population*
1996-97	1,131,201	n/a	n/a	48,665	2,324	n/a	n/a
1997-98	1,276,965	n/a	n/a	48,821	2,616	n/a	n/a
1998-99	1,060,356	n/a	n/a	49,033	2,163	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	1,024,654	n/a	n/a	49,233	2,081	n/a	n/a
2000-01	995,123	n/a	n/a	49,450	2,012	n/a	n/a
2001-02	1,021,604	n/a	n/a	49,649	2,058	n/a	n/a
2002-03	975,338	n/a	n/a	49,863	1,956	n/a	n/a
2003-04	890,205	n/a	n/a	50,110	1,777	n/a	n/a
2004-05	808,810	1,305,043	n/a	50,466	1,603	2,586	n/a
2005-06	771,123	1,141,343	n/a	50,764	1,519	2,248	n/a
2006-07	691,939	953,270	n/a	51,106	1,354	1,865	n/a
2007-08	526,237	754,971	3,056,710	51,465	1,023	1,467	5,939
2008-09	565,822	907,746	2,360,453	51,810	1,092	1,752	4,556
2009-10	614,121	974,064	2,420,535	52,234	1,176	1,865	4,634
2010-11	n/a	n/a	2,455,424	52,577	n/a	n/a	4,670

Definitions:

In-patient—patients waiting for inpatient admission following a decision to admit.

Out-patient—patients waiting for first outpatient appointment following general practitioner referral.

RTT—patients on an incomplete pathway following referral, regardless of position on pathway.

Sources:

Department of Health monthly monitoring and RTT returns.

Office for National Statistics population figures.

Hotels

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* hotel accommodation and *(b)* four or five star hotel accommodation for (i) civil servants in his Department, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) special advisers in his Department in each financial year since 1997. [68210]

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* four star, *(b)* five star and *(c)* other hotel accommodation for (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in his Department between (A) May 2006 and June 2007 and (B) June 2009 and May 2010. [68371]

Mr Simon Burns: Data from our central contracts is not available before November 2006. It is not possible to distinguish between the class of hotel or traveller without incurring disproportionate cost. The cost of hotel accommodation from the central contract data is as follows:

	£
November 2006 to March 2007	447,318.79
April 2007 to March 2008	1,247,608.81
April 2008 to March 2009	1,633,839.11
April 2009 to March 2010	1,752,877.82
April 2010 to March 2011	1,327,827.22
April 2011 to date	189,924.52
November 2006 to June 2007	725,261.06
June 2009 to May 2010	1,752,534.93

James Cook University Hospital: Ambulance Services

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average emergency ambulance journey time was to James Cook University hospital from Darlington in the latest period for which figures are available. [67980]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not centrally held. The Department does not collect information on the average ambulance journey times by national health service ambulance trusts. The hon. Member may wish to approach the chief executive of Newcastle Primary Care Trust, which is the lead commissioner for the North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust, and the chief executive of the North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust direct, which may hold some relevant information.

Learning Disability

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the average minimum lifetime financial requirements of an adult with learning disabilities who has *(a)* high, *(b)* moderate and *(c)* low care needs. [68040]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally.

Mass Media

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse has been for the production of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month for which one was produced since May 1997. [68214]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold central records on the cost of media coverage evaluation and attempting to gather information for each month since 1997 would incur disproportionate costs.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press briefings were held by his Department in each month between May 1997 and May 2010; and what the subject of each such press briefing was. [68218]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has held a number of briefings for media since 1997 on policy announcements and public health issues, including weekly briefings on pandemic flu in 2009.

The Department does not maintain a central record of when media briefings have been held, or on which subject. Nor as a matter of routine does the Department's media centre keep the dates and subject matter of media briefings from each year.

Since May 2010, media briefings have included one on 30 November 2010 on publication of the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", and on 12 July 2010 on publication of the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS".

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the public purse was of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month between *(a)* May 2006 and June 2007 and *(b)* June 2009 and May 2010. [68366]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold central records on the cost of media coverage evaluation in each month between *(a)* May 2006 and June 2007 and *(b)* June 2009 and May 2010, and attempting to gather information for each month would incur disproportionate costs.

Maternity Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 782-3W, on maternity services, whether the national assessment of midwifery workforce needs has completed; and if he will make a statement. [68698]

Anne Milton: The Department has commissioned the Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI) to provide intelligence and information on the national maternity workforce. The CfWI will report back early in 2012 with their findings to inform future local workforce planning and commissioning decisions.

Milk: Contamination

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when milk supplies from dairy farms in Somerset were last tested for contamination with *(a)* iodine 131, *(b)* strontium 90, *(c)* caesium 137 and *(d)* plutonium. [68556]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) advise that, as part of a routine radiological monitoring programme, samples of milk are regularly taken from six farms around the Hinkley Point nuclear site in Somerset. The most recent testing of milk samples from Somerset was in May 2011. The analytical method used can detect for the presence of both Caesium-137 and Iodine-131. Neither of these radionuclides were detected in the samples in May and are not routinely detected in samples from Somerset.

No routine testing for plutonium or strontium is carried out on milk samples from around nuclear power stations as they do not routinely discharge any of these radionuclides. However, dairy milk samples are collected from 34 locations and analysed for strontium. Although two of these locations are in the south west, none are in Somerset.

Results of this monitoring programme are published annually in the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment report (RIFE) at:

www.food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/radiosurv/rife/

and interim provisional results are published twice per year on the FSA website at:

www.food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/radiosurv/rife/radsurv2010

NHS Walk-in Centres

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances at walk-in centres there have been in each year since 2002; what the cost has been for the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* maintenance of walk-in centres in each year; and what the average cost of an attendance at (i) a walk-in centre and (ii) a GP surgery was in each year since 2002. [68293]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 2003-04, data on the numbers of visits to national health service walk-in centres have been collected on a quarterly basis. Annual figures are set out in the following table:

Accident and Emergency (A&E) attendances

	Type 4 Departments—NHS walk-in centres
2003-04	1,381,841
2004-05	2,031,430
2005-06	2,509,957
2006-07	2,372,992
2007-08	2,392,365
2008-09	2,514,690
2009-10	2,699,798
2010-11	2,486,793

Source:
Department of Health—Quarterly Monitoring of A&E

NHS walk-in centres are now the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) and are funded and run in the same way as other front-line NHS services. Before this responsibility was handed over in 2005-06, host PCTs for these sites received 75% to 80% of their funding from a central budget of £33 million—an average of £750,000 per site, ranging from £390,000 to £1.3 million. The Department has no further figures relating to the costs of NHS walk-in centres.

No central data are held on the average cost of a consultation at a NHS walk-in centre The following table shows average cost per consultation undertaken in general practice.

GP average surgery consultation costs

	Average cost per consultation (£)
2002-03	16.8
2003-04	18.0
2004-05	22.1
2005-06	24.5
2006-07	24.0
2007-08	23.7
2008-09	23.8

NHS: Competition

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish any reviews commissioned by his Department regarding the use of *(a)* patient choice and *(b)* competition in NHS trusts between 1997 and 2010. [68422]

Mr Simon Burns: Reports received by or commissioned by the Department would not normally be published by the Department but rather published by the institution responsible for the work.

For example, the Department commissioned a comprehensive report on Patient Choice from the Kings fund which was published in 2010:

www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/patient_choice.html

Further evidence that the Department has considered in relation to choice and competition can be found in the relevant impact assessments relating to the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 (published in January 2011):

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

and to the guidance on extending patient choice of provider (published July 2011):

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_128455

Additionally, it is the responsibility of the Co-operation and Competition Panel (CCP) to publish completed reviews regarding potential breaches of the Principles and Rules for Co-operation and Competition, and proposed mergers of providers of NHS services.

Any reviews which the CCP has completed are available to view on their website:

www.ccpanel.org.uk

The following is a list of evidence the Department has considered for choice and competition policies. This list is not exhaustive, but an indication of some of the key evidence sources of which the Department is aware:

Bloom, N., Propper, C, Seller, S. and Van Reenan, J. (2010) The Impact of Competition on Management Quality: Evidence from Public Hospitals CMPO WP 10/237

Cooper, Z., Gibbons, S., Jones, S. and McQuire, A. (2010a) Does Hospital Competition Save Lives? Evidence from The English NHS Patient Choice Reforms, LSE WP 16/2010

Copper, Z., Gibbons, S., Jones, S. and McQuire, A. (2010b) Does Hospital Competition Improve Efficiency? An Analysis of the Recent Market-Based Reforms to the English NHS CEP discussion paper no.988

Dixon, A. and LeGrand. J., (2006) "Is greater patient choice consistent with equity? The case of the English NHS". "Journal of Health Services Research & Policy, vol 11, no3, pp 162-6

Dranove, D and Statterthwaite, M. (1992) Monopolistic Competition When Price and Quality Are Not Perfectly Observable Rand Journal of Economics, 23,247-262

Gaynor, M., Moreno-Serra, R. and Propper, C. (2010) Death by Market Power: Reform, Competition and Patient Outcomes in the NHS CMPO WP 10/242

Gaynor, M. (2004) Competition and quality in hospital markets. What do we know? What don't we know? Economic Publique 15, 3-40

Gowrisankaran, G. and Town, R. J. (2003) Competition, Payers, and, Hospital Quality Health Services Research 38, 1403-1422

Hamilton, B. H. and Bramley-Harker, R. E. (1999) The impact of the NHS Reforms on Queues and Surgical Outcomes in England: Evidence from hip fracture Patients The Economic Journal 109, 437-462

Hughes, R. G. and Luft, H. (1991) Service Patterns in Local Hospital Markets: Complementary or Medical Arms Race Health Service Management Research 4, 131-139

Joskow, P (1980) The effects of Competition and Regulation on Hospital Bed Supply and the reservation Quality of the Hospital Bell Journal of Economics III, 421-447

Klein, R. (1999) Markets, Politicians and the NHS British Medical Journal 319, 1383-1384 Le Grand, J. (1999) Competition, Cooperation or Control? Tales from the British National Health Services Health Affairs 18, 27-39

OECD Health Data 2010

Propper, C, (1996) Market Structure and Prices: The response of Hospitals in the UK National Health Service to Competition Journal of Public Economics

Propper, C, Burgess, S., and Gossage, D. (2008) Competition and Quality: Evidence from the internal Market 1991-1996 The Economic Journal 118,138-170

Propper, C, Burgess, S., and Green, K. (2004) Does Competition Between Hospitals Improve the Quality of Care? Hospital Death Rates and the NHS Internal Market Journal of Public Economics, 88, 1247-1272

Propper, C, Wilson, D. and Soderlund, N. (1998) The effects of Regulation and Competition in the NHS Internal Market: The case of GP Fundholder Prices Journal of Health Economics 17, 645-674

Soderland, N., CSABA, I., Gray, A., Milne, R. and Raferty, J. (1997) Impact of the NHS Reforms on English hospital productivity: an analysis of the first three years British Medical Journal 315, U26-9

Nolte, E. McKee, CM., Measuring the Health of Nations: analysis of mortality amenable to healthcare BMJ 2003; 327:1129 (2003)

Eurocare-4, www.eurocare.it

OECD, Health at a Glance 2009 (2009)

European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (EARSS) incidence of MRSA per 100,000 patient days (2008)

The Tallinn Charter, Health Systems for Health and Wealth Draft Charter World Health Organisation (2008)

Is the NHS becoming more patient centred? Trends from the national surveys of patients in England 2002 to 2007 Picker Institute (2007)

British Social Attitudes Survey, NatCen,

http://www.natcen.ac.uk/study/british-social-attitudes-25th-report/our-findings - (2009)

The Patient Association's response to "Liberating the NHS: Greater Choice and Control" The Patient Association (2011)

Taylor, R., Implications of offering "Patient Choice" for routine adult surgical referrals. (2004) Dr Foster Limited, University of Nottingham

Picker Institute

Thorlby, R. and Gregory, S., Free Choice at the point of referral. London King's Fund (2008)

British Social Attitudes Survey, NatCen,

www.natcen.ac.uk/study/british-social-attitudes-25th-report/findings - (2009)

Dixon, A., Robertson, R., Appleby, J, Burge, P., Devlin, N., Magee, H., Patient Choice: How patients choose and how providers respond The Kings Fund (2010)

Dixon, S., Report on the national patient choice survey—February 2010 England Department of Health (2010)

NHS: Drugs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what drugs have been made available for the first time to patients on the NHS since 5 May 2010; and how many patients have received such drugs. [68174]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for licensing medicines in the United Kingdom. Since May 2010 five medicines containing new active substances were licensed by the MHRA for the UK only. Since January 2010 another 56 medicines containing new active substances were licensed in the European Union by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) through the centralised procedure to which the MHRA contributed by providing scientific expertise. When a medicine containing a new active substance is licensed it does not mean it automatically becomes available on the national health service.

Information on the number of people prescribed a medicine, the dosage or the medical condition being treated, is not collected centrally.

New active substances licensed in the UK only

1. PL 00133/0234 - Blistex
2. PL 18024/0009 - Sativex
3. PL 19364/0033 - Normicron
4. PL 32363/0001 - Livazo
5. PL 32828/0001 - Plenaxis.

New active substances licensed through the EMA

1. EU/1/11/703/ - Xgeva
2. EU/1/11/700/ - Benlysta
3. EU/1/11/698/ - Yervoy
4. EU/1/11/696/ - Bydureon
5. EU/1/11/695/ - Leganto
6. EU/1/11/694/ - Nulojix
7. EU/1/11/692/ - Yellox
8. EU/1/11/691/ - Eliquis
9. EU/1/11/688/ - Cinryze
10. EU/1/11/687/ - Hizentra
11. EU/1/11/686/ - Rasilamlo
12. EU/1/11/681/ - Trobalt
13. EU/1/11/680/ - Riprazo HCT
14. EU/1/11/679/ - Pravafenix
15. EU/1/11/678/ - Halaven
16. EU/1/11/677/ - Gilenya
17. EU/1/11/676/ - Jevtana
18. EU/1/11/674/ - Repso

19. EU/1/11/673/ - Ifirmacombi
20. EU/1/11/672/ - Xeplion
21. EU/1/11/671/ -Xiapex
22. EU/1/11/669/ - Teysuno
23.EU/1/11/668/ - Daliresp
24. EU/1/11/667/ - Esbriet
25. EU/1/11/666/ - Libertek
26. EU/1/10/664/ - Pumarix
27. EU/1/10/661/ - Fluenz
28. EU/1/10/660/ - Potactasol
29. EU/1/10/659/ - Iasibon
30. EU/1/10/658/ - Aflunov
31. EU/1/10/657/ - Prepandemic Influenza vaccine (H5N1)
32. EU/1/10/656/ - Possia
33. EU/1/10/655/ - Brilique
34. EU/1/10/648/ - Twynsta
35. EU/1/10/647/ - Myclausen
36. EU/1/10/646/ - VPRIV
37. EU/1/10/645/ - Brinavess
38. EU/1/10/644/ - PecFent
39. EU/1/10/643/ - Rapiscan
40. EU/1/10/641/ - Ruconest
41.EU/1/10/640/ - Sycrest
42. EU/1/10/638/ - Ozurdex
43. EU/1/10/636/ - Daxas
44. EU/1/10/632/ - Tolura
45. EU/1/10/631/ - Nivestim
46. EU/1/10/630/ - Docefrez
47. EU/1/10/628/ - Votrient
48. EU/1/10/625/ - Arzerra
49. EU/1/10/623/ - DuoCover
50. EU/1/10/622/ - Tepadina
51. EU/1/10/621/ - Ristaben
52. EU/1/10/620/ - Ristfor
53. EU/1/10/619/ - DuoPlavin
54. EU/1/10/618/ - Prolia
55. EU/1/10/614/ - Menveo
56. EU/1/10/612/ - Revolade.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS spending per head of population in *(a)* England, *(b)* Warwickshire and *(c)* Nuneaton was in each of the last five years. [68149]

Mr Simon Burns: The amount spent per capita in total in England by all primary care trusts (PCTs) and by Warwickshire PCT and its predecessor organisations, in each of the last five years, is shown in the following table.

£

Organisation	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Rugby PCT	1,243	—	—	—	—
North Warwickshire PCT	1,168	—	—	—	—
South Warwickshire PCT	1,114	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire PCT	—	1,231	1,315	1,362	1,510
All England	1,286	1,315	1,428	1,499	1,650

Data in respect of expenditure per capita in Nuneaton are not held centrally.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of delivering an episode of care in the NHS in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010 at constant prices. [68295]

Mr Simon Burns: The average cost of delivering an episode of care in the NHS was £1,410 in 1997-98 and £1,395 in 2009-10.

The figures include elective in-patients (including excess bed days), non-elective in-patients (including excess bed days) and day case activity. The 2009-10 figure covers costs to national health service providers (NHS trusts, foundation trusts and primary care trust (PCT) provider arms) of providing these services, as reported to the Department through the annual reference cost collection. The 1997-98 figure does not include costs reported by PCT provider arms, as the reference cost collection for that year covered acute trusts only. Both figures are inclusive of the Market Forces Factor.

The 1997-98 figures have been uplifted by using the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator.

NHS: Manpower

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of all estimates for NHS work force changes commissioned by his Department between January 1997 and May 2010. [68425]

Mr Simon Burns: We interpret my hon. Friend's question as to referring to estimates in changes to NHS work force numbers between January 1997 and May 2010.

Two tables giving this detail have been placed in the Library.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been made redundant by primary care trusts and subsequently re-employed within the NHS *(a)* directly and *(b)* on a temporary or contract basis in each financial year since 1997-98. [68431]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated numbers of people made redundant by primary care trusts and subsequently re-employed (up until 30 April 2011) within the national health service directly and on a temporary or contract basis in each financial year are shown in the following table.

	Permanent	*Fixed term*
2008-09	59	40
2009-10	26	13
2010-11	79	60

These estimates are based on data extracted from the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) Data Warehouse and therefore do not include staff who may have been re-employed by general practices, or Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. ESR has been used across the NHS since 2008. Information pertaining to prior to 2008 is not held centrally.

NHS: Standards

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve patients' outcomes in the NHS. [68195]

Mr Simon Burns: The 'NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12' was published in December 2010 and signals the direction of travel for the national health service in focusing on outcomes. It is intended to support continuous improvements in outcomes for patients across the range of activities the NHS is responsible for delivering.

For example, in Domain 5: 'Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting people from avoidable harm', there are two indicators which will track the progress of the NHS in reducing incidences of healthcare associated infections. Existing data show that in the year ending March 2011 the number of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections decreased by 22% and *Clostridium difficile* infections decreased by 15% on the year before. These are positive outcomes in this domain, and we expect improvements to occur across all five domains.

To support the outcomes and indicators in each domain of the NHS Outcomes Framework, a suite of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Quality Standards are being developed, and we have commissioned NICE to produce two Quality Standards on patient experience.

Nursing Home Properties

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will examine the financial position of Nursing Home Properties. [68460]

Paul Burstow: It is for the Care Quality Commission, as the regulator of adult social care services, to satisfy itself that a care service provider is financially viable.

Obesity

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were (i) overweight and (ii) obese in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997; and if he will estimate the number of (A) adults and (B) children who were (1) overweight and (2) obese in each primary care trust in each year since 1997. [68428]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the prevalence of overweight and obesity in adults is not available by primary care trust (PCT) and is available only by strategic health authority (SHA) for 2008. Information on the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children by PCT is available only for certain age groups and from 2006-07. Information on the number of adults and children who were overweight or obese is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Information on the percentage of overweight and obese adults aged 16 and over in England is available in the "Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables", Adult trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for adults in England for the years 1993 to 2009. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

The proportion of adults aged 16 and over recorded as overweight and obese by SHA for 2008 is available in Table 7.3 on page 194 of the "Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and fitness". The information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse08physicalactivity

Information on the percentage of overweight and obese children in England is available in the "Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables", Child trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for children aged 2 to 15 in England for the years 1995 to 2009. This information is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

The proportion of children aged 2 to 15 recorded as overweight and obese by SHA for 2008 is available in Table 13.3 on page 327 of the "Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and fitness". The information is available from the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse08physicalactivity

Further information on the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children at a PCT level is available through the National Child Measurement Programme. Information is available for children in Reception (4 to 5 years) and year 6 (10 to 11 years) for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10. Information showing prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in those two school years by PCT is available for each year from the following links.

Table 2 of the accompanying excel file of the "National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2009/10 school year" report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2009-10-school-year

Table 2 of the accompanying excel file of the "National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2008/09 school year" report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2008-09-school-year

Table 2 of the accompanying excel file of "National Child Measurement Programme: results from the 2007/08 school year, headline results" report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-results-from-the-school-year-2007-08

Table 2 of the accompanying excel file of "National Child Measurement Programme: results from the 2006/07 school year, headline results" report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-results-from-the-2006-07-school-year

Copies of all these publications have already been placed in the Library.

Organs: Donors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendation of the Organ Donation Taskforce to increase the number of organs available for transplantation. [68506]

Anne Milton: Implementation of the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations has seen donor rates rise by around 28% since 2008 and over 18 million people—some 28% of the United Kingdom population—have registered on the Organ Donor Register. Work continues at a local, regional and national level to increase donor rates still further to the 50% by 2013 anticipated by the Organ Donation Taskforce.

Future action will focus on increasing consent rates; ensuring that the potential for donation can be optimised in all cases; and increasing donation from emergency medicine. This will be achieved through a variety of means, including through the clinical leads for organ donation, donation committees and donation chairs in acute trusts driving improvement locally; regional collaboration to share learning and ongoing work to raise the profile and benefits of organ donation and transplantation with the national health service, professional groups and with the public.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has considered the merits of implementing a soft opt-out system for organ donation in England. [68507]

Anne Milton: In 2008, the independent Organ Donation Taskforce examined the case for moving to a system of presumed consent for organ donation. It recommended against it, concluding that while such a system might have the potential to deliver benefits, it would present significant difficulties which might not bring about the desired increase in organ donation rates. Action has been taken to strengthen the donation infrastructure and since the publication of the taskforce's report in 2008, organ donor rates have increased by around 28%. We need to give time for these improvements to work through fully and assess their success, before looking to change the system further.

Osteoporosis: Health Services

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to include osteoporosis in the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the GP contract; [68397]

(2) if he will include indicators on reducing hospital admissions for fractures in older people as part of the new outcomes frameworks for the NHS, adult social care and public health in England; [68398]

(3) if he will take steps to implement the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Osteoporosis Group report on the role of nutrition in preventing osteoporosis and promoting good bone health. [68399]

Paul Burstow: The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Osteoporosis' report of its inquiry into the role of nutrition in preventing osteoporosis and promoting bone health sets out a number of recommendations for Government, the national health service, local authorities, social care providers, those responsible for delivering public health messages and the food, advertising, retail and cosmetics industries.

In our recently published social marketing strategy, 'Changing Behaviours, Improving Outcomes', we have set out our intentions to expand on the Change4Life programme to include all relevant advice to promote healthier lifestyles. This will include broader dietary and physical activity messages.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) is currently reviewing the data on vitamin D and health in light of the new evidence that has become available since it published its position statement 'Update on Vitamin D', in 2007. This review will consider the vitamin D status of United Kingdom populations, the thresholds to define deficiency and the relative contributions of diet and sunlight exposure to maintain vitamin D status. It is expected that SACN's review will take three to four years to complete.

Technology Appraisal guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) supports calcium and vitamin D supplementation in post-menopausal women receiving osteoporosis treatment unless clinicians are confident that the patient already has adequate levels. Healthcare professionals are expected to take the guidance fully into account when exercising their clinical judgment. However, the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of health care professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. Commissioners and providers are reminded by NICE of their responsibilities to implement this guidance in light of local circumstances.

Resources published as part of the prevention package for older people, are designed to support the NHS and local authorities in prioritising and effectively commissioning services that support the health, well-being and independence of older people. The document "Falls and fractures: effective interventions in health and social care" sets out a systematic approach to falls and fracture prevention. This includes an objective to prevent frailty, preserve bone health and reduce accidents through preserving physical activity, healthy lifestyles and reducing environmental hazards.

The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12 includes an indicator, which focuses on:

> 'improving recovery from fragility fractures—the proportion of patients recovering to their previous levels of mobility/walking ability at (i) 30 days and (ii) 120 days'.

Following consultation on the draft Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, an indicator on the proportion of people suffering fragility fractures who recover their previous level of mobility/walking after 120 days was excluded for 2011-12 as further work was required on data development and the analysis of the impact of social care. However, this does not preclude the inclusion of such an indicator in future years.

In the recent consultation on proposals for a public health outcomes framework, an indicator on 'Acute admissions as a result of falls or fall injuries for over 65s' was included. This was selected for inclusion on the basis that falls account for the majority of admissions to hospital for unintentional injury among older people, and so falls prevention is a key public health priority. The response to the consultation was, in general, very supportive of the broad concept of the outcomes framework, its breadth and the focus on life-course and health inequalities, which are both particularly relevant to the rates of falls in older people. As we develop the final outcomes framework which we intend to publish later this year, we will consider the full range of responses from stakeholders to the consultation to determine the final set of indicators for inclusion in the final framework.

Work to reduce hospital admissions due to fractures among older people will require joint effort across the wider public health, NHS and adult social care systems. Alongside the development of the public health outcomes framework over the next few weeks and months, we will work with stakeholders to clarify and publicise the close alignment of all three outcomes frameworks, supporting local Health and Well-being Boards in their work to improve outcomes across the board and to encourage joint work across the NHS, local authority and providers to support older people in this case to live longer, healthier lives.

The prioritisation of potential indicators for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework is the responsibility of NICE. Following publication of the indicators, NHS Employers negotiate with the British Medical Association on which indicators should be included within the Quality and Outcomes Framework, achievement levels and the value of those indicators.

Out-patients: Attendance

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many out-patient appointments were missed *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each relevant NHS area in each financial year since 1997-98; what proportion of the number of out-patient appointments such missed out-patient appointments represented in each relevant NHS area; and what estimate he has made of the overall cost to the NHS of such missed appointments in each financial year since 1997-98. [68291]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Proportion of patients not attending out-patient appointments for NHS providers in England 1997-98 to 2010-11

	Total out-patient appointments	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*
1997-98	47,264,698	5,629,429	11.91
1998-99	47,803,368	5,648,971	11.82
1999-2000	48,923,209	5,882,510	12.02
2000-01	49,524,159	5,954,819	12.02
2001-02	49,579,825	5,904,847	11.91
2002-03	49,529,924	5,765,099	11.64
2003-04	50,996,765	5,877,153	11.52
2004-05	50,476,667	5,709,066	11.31
2005-06	50,817,978	5,596,865	11.01
2006-07	50,146,190	5,436,135	10.84
2007-08	51,123,275	5,420,582	10.60
2008-09	54,517,526	5,804,238	10.65
2009-10	56,595,028	5,855,483	10.35
2010-11	57,210,818	5,720,446	10.00

[1] Did not attend. *Note:* For 2001-02 the England level data does not equal the sum of health authorities in the following table due to an organisation that does not have an associated health authority. *Source:* Department of Health; Quarterly Activity Return.

Proportion of patients not attending out-patient appointments for NHS providers in each relevant NHS area 1997-98 to 2010-11

	1997-98			*1998-99*			*1999-2000*		
Name	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*
Northern and Yorkshire	6,274,343	729,913	11.63	6,308,365	742,460	11.77	6,378,299	789,636	12.38
Trent	4,894,893	524,566	10.72	4,938,281	523,492	10.60	5,015,449	541,815	10.80
West Midlands	4,392,417	416,888	9.49	4,433,371	408,231	9.21	4,535,205	425,198	9.38
North West	7,980,328	1,179,726	14.78	8,099,607	1,203,236	14.86	8,302,046	1,259,972	15.18
Eastern	6,411,419	797,219	12.43	6,428,049	776,560	12.08	6,728,544	827,805	12.30
London	5,242,156	484,066	9.23	5,290,796	479,234	9.06	5,385,813	486,834	9.04
South East	5,003,148	629,156	12.58	5,121,215	626,061	12.22	5,250,761	642,063	12.23
South West	7,065,994	867,895	12.28	7,183,684	889,697	12.38	7,327,092	909,187	12.41

	2000-01			*2001-02*			*2002-03*		
Name	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *Rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Health Authority	1,933,862	164,431	8.50	1,962,035	166,705	8.50	1,930,114	157,080	8.14
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Health Authority	1,242,749	148,280	11.93	1,195,242	137,650	11.52	1,215,039	131,460	10.82

	2000-01			2[illegible]1-02			2002-03		
Name	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *Rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*
Essex Health Authority	1,325,507	144,645	10.91	1,322,654	140,155	10.60	1,355,615	149,227	11.01
North West London Health Authority	2,109,750	350,991	16.64	2,167,989	356,384	16.44	2,165,772'	354,149	16.35
North Central London Health Authority	2,322,723	361,185	15.55	2,225,523	359,363	16.15	2,222,116	345,921	15.57
North East London Health Authority	1,743,985	285,784	16.39	1,716,200	282,614	16.47	1,709,264	274,762	16.07
South East London Health Authority	1,833,867	315,568	17.21	1,864,262	350,057	18.78	1,891,134	328,197	17.35
South West London Health Authority	1,428,750	167,721	11.74	1,457,828	173,683	11.91	1,452,596	169,055	11.64
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Health Authority	1,694,713	199,935	11.80	1,770,447	204,001	11.52	1,781,954	193,269	10.85
County Durham and Tees Valley Health Authority	1,162,247	139,591	12.01	1,153,703	129,055	11.19	1,083,311	116,507	10.75
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Health Authority	1,307,370	140,220	10.73	1,297,353	140,143	10.80	1,292,099	139,034	10.76
West Yorkshire Health Authority	2,312,647	286,890	12.41	2,263,697	279,845	12.36	2,243,596	283,183	12.62
Cumbria and Lancashire Health Authority	1,715,030	179,295	10.45	1,688,314	176,155	10.43	1,578,803	165,284	10.47
Greater Manchester Health Authority	3,194,427	411,778	12.89	3,282,427	419,265	12.77	3,409,985	429,223	12.59
Cheshire and Merseyside Health Authority	2,780,559	367,361	13.21	2,859,531	358,515	12.54	2,998,264	353,665	11.80
Thames Valley Health Authority	1,729,964	179,403	10.37	1,725,789	179,058	10.38	1,737,982	177,204	10.20
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority	1,337,457	137,252	10.26	1,361,925	135,964	9.98	1,365,836	130,680	9.57
Kent and Medway Health Authority	1,264,610	131,554	10.40	1,292,216	131,629	10.19	1,287,890	126,825	9.85
Surrey and Sussex Health Authority	2,282,134	246,479	10.80	2,252,314	245,536	10.90	2,263,240	234,237	10.35
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Health Authority	1,919,701	179,084	9.33	1,905,960	174,421	9.15	1,885,158	179,440	9.52
South West Peninsula Health Authority	1,328,445	116,189	8.75	1,315,947	111,203	8.45	1,319,220	113,398	8.60
Dorset and Somerset Health Authority	933,335	75,886	8.13	930,864	73,278	7.87	931,904	73,406	7.88
South Yorkshire Health Authority	1,668,679	199,409	11.95	1,754,364	208,916	11.91	1,745,665	199,294	11.42
Trent Health Authority	2,353,782	244,377	10.38	2,216,471	221,325	9.99	2,140,752	210,799	9.85
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Health Authority	1,234,083	121,345	9.83	1,286,826	132,260	10.28	1,315,549	137,967	10.49
Shropshire and Staffordshire Health Authority	1,219,655	119,825	9.82	1,184,740	114,229	9.64	1,167,437	111,208	9.53
Birmingham and the Black Country Health Authority	2,883,493	401,358	13.92	2,870,204	358,639	12.50	2,770,290	342,946	12.38
West Midlands South Health Authority	1,260,635	138,983	11.02	1,246,414	143,184	11.49	1,269,339	137,679	10.85

	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
Name	Total appointments	Total DNAs[1]	DNA[1] rate (%)	Total appointments	Total DNAs[1]	DNA[1] rate (%)	Total appointments	Total DNAs[1]	DNA[1] rate (%)
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Health Authority	1,996,536	160,916	8.06	2,002,359	160,239	8.00	2,013,035	164,671	8.18
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Health Authority	1,296,989	135,521	10.45	1,245,883	125,798	10.10	1,081,193	107,533	9.95
Essex Health Authority	1,364,951	151,523	11.10	1,368,280	146,441	10.70	1,395,923	148,564	10.64
North West London Health Authority	2,149,037	340,800	15.86	2,197,183	337,685	15.37	2,283,289	340,004	14.89
North Central London Health Authority	2,293,075	352,954	15.39	2,299,066	355,886	15.48	2,193,021	326,217	14.88
North East London Health Authority	1,792,325	284,800	15.89	1,843,674	295,823	16.05	1,641,602	241,539	14.71
South East London Health Authority	1,900,844	337,267	17.74	1,863,190	314,150	16.86	1,956,702	302,342	15.45
South West London Health Authority	1,529,390	181,024	11.84	1,504,258	169,096	11.24	1,572,860	182,438	11.60
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Health Authority	1,923,616	198,342	10.31	1,787,364	200,031	11.19	1,850,735	199,931	10.80
County Durham and Tees Valley Health Authority	1,146,065	118,169	10.31	1,163,405	119,682	10.29	1,153,650	116,477	10.10
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Health Authority	1,324,437	136,582	10.31	1,296,312	121,244	9.35	1,413,149	124,622	8.82
West Yorkshire Health Authority	2,247,765	276,164	12.29	2,088,621	255,823	12.25	2,069,245	250,519	12.11
Cumbria and Lancashire Health Authority	1,649,700	179,911	10.91	1,653,324	180,386	10.91	1,658,259	185,828	11.21
Greater Manchester Health Authority	3,390,296	422,950	12.48	3,354,936	397,543	11.85	3,381,724	399,284	11.81
Cheshire and Merseyside Health Authority	3,034,097	358,469	11.81	3,040,240	347,864	11.44	3,101,045	353,925	11,41
Thames Valley Health Authority	1,799,963	180,233	10.01	1,767,676	176,524	9.99	1,792,644	175,577	9.79
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority	1,417,055	132,963	9.38	1,431,536	131,096	9.16	1,448,212	126,915	8.76
Kent and Medway Health Authority	1,327,193	135,935	10.24	1,295,855	127,788	9.86	1,332,884	131,981	9.90
Surrey and Sussex Health Authority	2,271,735	231,062	10.17	2,239,026	219,446	9.80	2,092,982	192,685	9.21
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Health Authority	1,909,060	169,324	8.87	1,929,085	167,717	8.69	1,971,550	167,987	8.52
South West Peninsula Health Authority	1,377,801	113,663	8.25	1,336,111	105,351	7.88	1,379,454	108,089	7.84
Dorset and Somerset Health Authority	972,990	73,155	7.52	962,359	71,212	7.40	988,784	75,994	7.69
South Yorkshire Health Authority	1,839,628	202,908	11.03	1,824,544	203,234	11.14	1,913,195	201,591	10.54
Trent Health Authority	2,162,248	209,555	9.69	2,195,359	204,882	9.33	2,178,703	207,928	9.54
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Health Authority	1,354,066	151,898	11.22	1,313,070	145,896	11.11	1,391,566	160,934	11.56
Shropshire and Staffordshire Health Authority	1,206,665	115,058	9.54	1,198,227	113,136	9.44	1,145,757	99,027	8.64
Birmingham and the Black Country Health Authority	2,993,640	375,791	12.55	2,988,200	375,029	12.55	3,105,802	369,214	11.89

	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
Name	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*
West Midlands South Health Authority	1,325,598	150,216	11.33	1,287,524	140,064	10.88	1,311,013	135,049	10.30

	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
Name	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*
North East Strategic Health Authority	2,903,275	295,462	10.18	2,948,057	292,580	9.92	3,074,601	288,471	9.38
North West Strategic Health Authority	8,409,979	968,205	11.51	8,605,140	962,527	11.19	9,007,413	986,407	10.95
Yorkshire and The Humber Strategic Health Authority	5,346,782	581,081	10.87	5,425,916	574,957	10.60	5,710,126	565,988	9.91
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	3,415,442	348,128	10.19	3,348,207	329,286	9.83	3,404,294	329,562	9.68
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	5,421,255	599,040	11.05	5,544,773	603,280	10.88	5,958,332	614,812	10.32
East of England Strategic Health Authority	4,344,165	398,241	9.17	4,583,814	408,809	8.92	4,842,242	432,236	8.93
London Strategic Health Authority	9,691,898	1,321,261	13.63	9,743,787	1,310,056	13.45	10,898,171	1,621,198	14.88
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	3,212,981	304,458	9.48	3,277,533	305,706	9.33	3,496,402	309,370	8.85
South Central Strategic Health Authority	3,076,958	270,688	8.80	3,180,672	275,816	8.67	3,404,079	285,297	8.38
South West Strategic Health Authority	4,323,455	349,571	8.09	4,465,376	357,565	8.01	4,721,866	370,897	7.85

	2009-10			2010-11		
Name	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*	*Total appointments*	*Total DNAs*[1]	*DNA*[1] *rate (%)*
North East Strategic Health Authority	3,092,031	294,782	9.53	3,204,108	309,311	9.65
North West Strategic Health Authority	9,388,901	1,014,269	10.80	9,209,954	983,085	10.67
Yorkshire and The H umber Strategic Health Authority	6,052,951	570,581	9.43	6,206,274	575,382	9.27
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	3,345,510	316,117	9.45	3,510,888	305,311	8.70
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	6,387,082	665,505	10.42	6,806,401	724,244	10.64
East of England Strategic Health Authority	5,158,259	456,768	8.86	5,228,043	447,737	8.56
London Strategic Health Authority	11,298,624	1,565,973	13.86	11,202,304	1,449,253	12.94
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	3,591,928	312,924	8.71	3,822,028	316,746	8.29
South Central Strategic Health Authority	3,461,567	281,737	8.14	3,176,818	251,250	7.91
South West Strategic Health Authority	4,818,175	376,827	7.82	4,844,000	358,127	7.39

[1] Did not attend.

Source:

Department of Health; Quarterly Activity Return.

Patients: Information

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what aspects of patient care his Department requires to be covered by patient information leaflets. [68163]

Mr Simon Burns: United Kingdom law requires that all licensed medicines on the UK market are accompanied by patient information leaflets. More broadly however, information is clearly an important part of care giving. This is recognised within the NHS constitution which includes a right for people to be given information about treatments in advance and a right to information that supports people to make choices about their NHS care.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what involvement *(a)* patients and *(b)* the public have in writing and designing NHS patient information leaflets. [68164]

Mr Simon Burns: It is good practice to involve patients and the public in the development of information products and many information producers have developed highly effective ways of doing this. The Department has sponsored the establishment of The Information Standard scheme, which awards a quality mark to organisations that can show they have robust processes for developing high quality information. Before awarding the quality mark the scheme tests, among other things, how an information producer works with its audience to identify and meet its needs.

Patients: Surveys

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions his Department has made to collect real-time patient feedback from patients during their hospital stay. [68668]

Mr Simon Burns: 'Real-time' patient feedback is a general term for the use of a variety of approaches to capturing feedback from patients and service users at the point of care level—this can include hand-held devices, texting, kiosks, and comment cards. The 2011-12 Operating Framework for the national health service states that systems should be in place to capture the views and experiences of patients, service users and carers, and this will include the collection of real-time feedback.

Local organisations should use whichever methods of real-time feedback are most suitable and appropriate for their patients and populations. The information obtained can be used directly by staff to improve services at or near the time care is provided. Due to organisations collecting different data in different ways, any national aggregation would be meaningless. The Department does not collect real-time feedback data centrally.

Patients: Transport

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inter-hospital transfers have taken place in the NHS in each year since 1997; what the average distance patients have travelled was during these inter-hospital transfers; and what proportion of total hospital admissions these transfers represented for *(a)* children aged under five, *(b)* adults aged 18 to 59, *(c)* adults aged 60 to 85 and *(d)* adults aged over 85. [68290]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department. The Department does collect data on ambulance response times in accordance with the national response time targets and these are published on an annual basis in the statistical bulletin, 'Ambulance services, England'. These documents are available on the Information for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning ambulance services (which could include non-emergency patient transport services and inter-hospital transfers) to such extent as the PCT considers necessary to meet all reasonable requirements of the area for which they are legally charged with providing services.

Prescriptions

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were *(a)* issued and *(b)* not collected in the NHS in each year since 1997. [68225]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of prescriptions issued is not collected centrally. It is therefore not possible to indicate how many were not collected. The only available data is for the numbers which were returned to the NHS Prescription Services for reimbursement and have hence been issued; collected and dispensed.

Nurses: Skin Care

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines his Department has issued on minimum standards of training for nurses on tissue viability; [68528]

(2) how many tissue viability nurses are employed in each primary care trust. [68530]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of training for nurses is the responsibility of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Nurses receive training in skin care and tissue viability during their preparation for registration. They should keep up to date with best practice in skin care and tissue viability that is relevant to their area of practice, as part of their continuing professional development. Practitioners have access to specialist tissue viability nurses who provide training as well as expert advice in the care of individual patients. To reinforce the necessity for continuing learning, the NMC requires health care professionals to maintain competence in their field of practice as a condition of their continued registration.

The number of tissue viability nurses is not collected centrally. Local national health service organisations are responsible for the skill mix of their work force, including the number of tissue viability nurses. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local community and must have the freedom to train and deploy staff in ways appropriate for local conditions.

Salt

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what targets he has set for the reduction of salt consumption among the general public in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement, [68137]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with food industry representatives on the amount of salt in their products; what response he has received; and if he will make a statement; [68138]

(3) what steps he is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that salt reduction is prioritised among the outcomes of the UN Non-Communicable Diseases High Level Meeting in September 2011; and if he will make a statement. [68144]

Anne Milton: Work to reduce salt in food is being taken forward under the Public Health Responsibility Deal. Ministers and officials have been talking to a range of representatives from the manufacturing, retailing, catering and supply sectors. The response has been very positive and to date 55 companies have pledged to meet the Responsibility Deal salt reduction targets for 2012 with many more considering how they might contribute to this work.

In 2003, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition recommended that the average adult population salt intake should be reduced to no more than 6 grammes per day, and less for children. The salt reduction targets agreed by the Food Network of the Responsibility Deal and to be met by 2012 will give a total salt reduction of nearly 1 gramme per person per day compared to the levels in food in 2007.

We recognise that reducing salt intake in the population is a key intervention to decrease the risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. We have supported its inclusion as a priority global action to prevent non-communicable diseases in the forthcoming outcomes document for the UN Non-Communicable Diseases High Level Meeting in September 2011.

Selenium

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of selenium supplementation on the incidence of prostate, lung and colorectal cancers. [68032]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not assessed the potential effect of selenium supplementation on the incidence of prostate, lung and colorectal cancers.

In May this year a review was published that had looked at over 50 studies involving more than one million people to see whether taking selenium supplements offered any protective benefit from cancer. The review, conducted by a team of researchers from across Europe, concluded that there was not enough evidence to support the suggestion that taking selenium supplements is an effective way for healthy people to protect themselves against cancer.

Social Services: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what budget headings he expects his social care budget to be spent in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [68033]

Paul Burstow: Expenditure on adult social care is collected by the Information Centre for health and social care, in the Personal Social Services Expenditure return. The data are recorded under the headings in the following table. Local authorities are responsible for allocating their budgets and we do not, therefore, set out projections for spend on adult social care.

	Adults' services
A	*Service strategy: Adults' services*
A1	Strategic management
A2	Complaints procedures
A3	Total service strategy (lines A1 to A2)
B	*Older people (aged 65 or over) including older mentally ill*
B1	Assessment and care management
B2.1	Nursing care placements
B2.2	Residential care placements
B2.3	Nursing and residential care placements total (lines B2.1 + B2.2)
B4	Supported and other accommodation
B5	Home care
B6	Day care/day services
B7	Fairer charging—community services
B8	Direct payments
B9	Equipment and adaptations
B10	Meals
B11	Other services to older people
B12	Total older people excluding supporting people (lines B1 + B2.1 + B2.2 + B4 + B7 + B8 + B9 + B10 + B11)
B13	Supporting people (SP)
B14	Total older people including supporting people (lines B11 + B12)
E	*Adults aged under 65 with a physical disability*
E1	Assessment and care management
E2.1	Nursing care placements
E2.2	Residential care placements
E2.3	Nursing and residential care placements total (lines E2.1 + E2.2)
E4	Supported and other accommodation
E5	Home care
E6	Day care/day services
E7	Fairer charging—community services
E8	Direct payments
E9	Equipment and adaptations
E10	Meals
E11	Other services to adults with a physical disability
E12	Total adults with a physical disability, aged 18 to 64, excluding supporting people (lines E1 + E2.1 + E2.2 + E4 + E7 + E8 + E9 + E10 + E11)
E13	Supporting people (SP)
E14	Total adults with a physical disability, aged 18 to 64, including supporting people (lines E12 + E13)
F	*Adults aged under 65 with learning disabilities*
F1	Assessment and care management
F2.1	Nursing care placements
F2.2	Residential care placements
F2.3	Nursing and residential care placements total (lines F2.1 + F2.2)
F4	Supported and other accommodation
F5	Home care
F6	Day care/day services
F7	Fairer charging—community services
F8	Direct payments
F9	Equipment and adaptations
F10	Meals
F11	Other services to adults with learning disabilities
F12	Total adults with learning disabilities, aged 18 to 64, excluding supporting people (lines F1 + F2.1 + F2.2 + F4 + F7 + F8 + F9 + F10 + F11)
F13	Supporting people (SP)
F14	Total adults with learning disabilities, aged 18 to 64, including supporting people (lines F12 + F13)

	Adults' services
G	*Adults aged under 65 with mental health needs*
G1	Assessment and care management
G2.1	Nursing care placements
G2.2	Residential care placements
G2.3	Nursing and residential care placements total (lines G2.1 + G2.2)
G4	Supported and other accommodation
G5	Home care
G6	Day care/day services
G7	Fairer charging—community services
G8	Direct payments
G9	Equipment and adaptations
G10	Meals
G11	Other services to adults with mental health needs
G12	Total adults with mental health needs, aged 18 to 64, excluding supporting people (lines G1 + G2.1 + G2.2 + G4 + G7 + G8 + G9 + G10 + G11)
G13	Supporting people (SP)
G14	Total adults with mental health needs, aged 18 to 64, including supporting people (lines G12 + G13)
H	*Asylum seekers*
H1	Assessment and care management
H2	Lone adults
H3	Total asylum seekers (lines H1 to H2)
J	*Other adult services*
J1	Assessment and care management
J2	HIV/AIDS
J3	Substance abuse (addictions)
J4	Other adult services
J5	Total other adult services excluding supporting people (lines J1 to J4)
J6	Supporting people
J7	Total other adult services including supporting people (lines J5 + J6)
K	*Total adult social services*
K1	Total PSS excluding supporting people (lines A3 + B12 + E12+ F12 + G12 + H3405)
K2	Total supporting people (lines B13 + E13 + F13 + G13 + J6)
K3	Total PSS including supporting people (lines A3 + B12 + E12 + F12 + G12 + H3 + J5)

Social Services: Recruitment

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on social care recruitment campaigns in each year since 1997-98; and how many social carers have been recruited in each year since 1997-98. [68217]

Paul Burstow: The Department's expenditure on the National Social Care Recruitment Campaign is set out in the following table.

Information is not held centrally on how many people were recruited as a result of the campaigns. As there are so many different employers, and no single application process, it is very difficult to track how many people have found work as a result of the campaign. Anecdotal feedback from some of the social care employers who participated in the latest campaign suggests that the campaign has helped them to fill vacancies.

The purpose of the campaigns was to raise awareness of the range of rewarding work that is available in the social care sector and to encourage people to think about a job in social care.

Department of Health expenditure on the national social care recruitment

	£ million
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	0
2000-01	0
2001-02	0.83
2002-03	1.34
2003-04	4.62
2004-05	1.80
2005-06	2.42
2006-07	2.31
2007-08	2.22
2008-09	2.03
2009-10	4.10
2010-11	0

Notes:

1. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information commission and VAT).

2. All figures here are rounded to the nearest £10,000.

Strokes

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to reduce the number of strokes; and if he will make a statement. [68139]

Mr Simon Burns: We are aiming to reduce premature mortality from stroke in a number of ways.

The NHS Health Check programme assesses people aged between 40 and 74 for their risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and helps them to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored lifestyle advice and support so they stay well for longer. Phased implementation began in April 2009 and this Government is committed to the continuation of the programme. At full roll-out, the programme could prevent at least 1,600 heart attacks and strokes a year.

Implementation of the National Stroke Strategy and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard for stroke provides the NHS with evidence based characteristics of a good stroke service that have and will continue to improve stroke care resulting in better outcomes for patients in terms of prevention and treatment. Progress on stroke care in England is measured through the National Sentinel Stroke Audit.

Another wave of the Act FAST public awareness campaign is being planned for the autumn. This aims to help the public recognise the signs and symptoms of a stroke so that stroke patients get to hospital faster and receive quicker treatment, and so save lives.

The NHS Improvement Programme is leading work on raising awareness of the role of atrial fibrillation (AF) in stroke in primary and secondary care. For example, it is promoting opportunistic pulse checks in primary care, such as at flu clinics, to detect AF earlier in older people so that it can be treated and so reduce their risk of stroke.

Tobacco: Vending Machines

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the prohibition on tobacco sales from vending machines from October 2011 includes machines which are placed under a counter or otherwise away from public view and usage; [68240]

(2) what legal advice his Department has sought on the prohibition of tobacco sales from vending machines from October 2011 and compliance with EU regulations; [68241]

(3) will provide compensation to cigarette vending machine companies to cover the costs of removing their machine stock in order to comply with the legislation prohibiting the sale of tobacco from vending machines coming into force in October 2011; [68242]

(4) what notification his Department has given to cigarette vending machine companies of a change in the law concerning their trade coming into effect in October 2011. [68243]

Anne Milton: The prohibition of tobacco sales from vending machines will come into force, in England, on 1 October 2011. This legislation only applies to vending machines used by the public to buy tobacco products.

The Government believe this legislation is compliant with European Union law. Both the High Court and the Court of Appeal have upheld this view.

The Government is not intending to pay compensation to vending machine companies. We believe the regulations, which were made in March 2010, are a proportionate means of achieving important public health policy aims.

Sinclair Collis and the members of the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators, who between them, own the majority of vending machines in England, are both well aware of the commencement date. A national communication campaign will confirm the position before October.

Tuberculosis

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were diagnosed with tuberculosis in (i) West Kent primary care trust area, (ii) Medway primary care trust area, (iii) Kent and (iv) England in each of the last 10 years. [68518]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Children and adults diagnosed with tuberculosis in West Kent primary care trust (PCT) area, Medway PCT area, Kent and England, three-year average number of cases, 1999-2009

	Medway PCT		West Kent PCT		Kent		England		
	Children 0-16	Adults 17+	Children 0-16	Adults 17+	Children 0-16	Adults 17+	Children 0-16	Adults 17+	All cases
1999-2001	<5	18	<5	22	<5	65	475	5,474	5,954
2000-02	<5	15	<5	21	<5	63	496	5,826	6,326
2001-03	<5	18	<5	21	<5	72	497	6,019	6,517
2002-04	<5	13	<5	25	<5	76	484	6,269	6,753
2003-05	<5	13	<5	29	<5	77	491	6,616	7,108
2004-06	<5	12	<5	34	<5	83	513	6,949	7,463
2005-07	<5	15	<5	38	<5	95	536	7,142	7,679
2006-08	<5	19	<5	47	<5	118	555	7,207	7,763
2007-09	<5	20	<5	53	5	127	560	7,391	7,951

Notes:
1. The latest year for which data are currently available is 2009.
2. Three -year average numbers have been provided as the annual numbers per PCT are small and may vary year on year just by chance.
3. Exact figures are not provided where the number of cases was less than five due to a risk of deductive disclosure of a patient's identity.
4. All cases include those with an unknown age, so numbers in adults and children may not add up to the total.
5. Numbers of cases in Kent are defined as those residing in one of the three PCTs in Kent (Eastern and Coastal Kent, Medway and West Kent).

Source:
Health Protection Agency

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67561]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not spent anything on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effectiveness of the Carbon Emission Reduction Target. [68087]

Gregory Barker: A full assessment of the effectiveness of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) should only be made after the scheme ends in December 2012. However, an independent evaluation of how the scheme operates and customer experiences has been carried out and is informing the development of the future energy company obligation. This report will be published in autumn 2011.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Government plans to purchase offset credits to meet the second carbon budget. [68723]

Charles Hendry: A limit of 55 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent was set at the end of June for the second carbon budget period, for sectors outside the EU Emissions Trading System, purely on a contingency basis, this figure being consistent with what is permitted under the EU framework. Our latest emissions projections indicate that we do not expect there to be a need to purchase offset credits to meet the currently legislated second carbon budget level.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the correspondence between the Government and the Committee on Climate Change since March 2011 on the use of offset credits to meet the second carbon budget. [68726]

Charles Hendry: Correspondence between the Government and the Committee on Climate Change on the use of offset credits in the second carbon budget period has been published. The advice to Government from the CCC was published on the CCC's website[1] and the Government's response, in a letter from the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker), to Lord Turner, was published on the DECC website[2] on 7 June.

Note [1]

http://hmccc.s3.amazonaws.com/Letter_Lord%20Turner_Chris%20Huhne%20MP_220311.pdf

Note [2]

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/A%20low%20carbon%20UK/Carbon%20budgets/1776-letter-barker-turner-carbonbudget-0611.pdf

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions on the projections made by *(a)* Cambridge Econometrics and *(b)* his Department on the effects of the recession on levels of emissions over the first budget period. [68727]

Charles Hendry: It is important for the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, to have the best understanding possible of likely future emissions trends. For this reason the Secretary of State often discusses the assumptions and drivers regarding emissions projections with officials and other stakeholders. However, there are no records of any meetings that have been set up specifically to discuss the impact of the recession on Cambridge Econometrics' projections or DECC projections.

Carbon Emissions: EU Action

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had on steps to promote support for an increase in the EU emissions reduction target to 30 per cent. by 2020. [68725]

Gregory Barker: We remain committed to achieving EU agreement on a move to a 30% target and I have had a number of meetings with my ministerial counterparts from EU member states to try to build support to make this possible. In March this year, climate Ministers from Portugal, Spain and Sweden, Denmark, Greece and Germany joined the UK in signing a ministerial article making the economic case for a move to a 30% target.

Carbon Sequestration: Employment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to commissioning an independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the carbon capture and storage industry in the UK up to 2050. [67944]

Charles Hendry: Analysis commissioned by DECC and published in March 2011 shows that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) represents a major economic opportunity to the UK because of both domestic and export market potential. 70,000 to 100,000 jobs could be sustained by 2030 by Carbon Abatement Technologies, including CCS.

The UK is well placed to exploit the market opportunities and CCS represents new business opportunities. Analysis previously commissioned by DECC highlighted areas of UK strength in procurement and manufacturing, engineering design, project management, construction, financial, legal and commissioning.

Climate Change: EU Action

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the European Commission on proposals for a reprioritisation of the EU budget to support the EU's energy and climate change priorities. [68114]

Gregory Barker: The Government's representations to the European Commission on funding from the EU in support of the EU's energy and climate change priorities, and indeed on all funding from the EU budget, in both the annual budget and Multi-Annual Financial Framework processes is led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, supported by relevant Government Departments.

While controlling the size of the budget is the UK's main priority, the Government believe that funding for climate change should make up a larger share of an EU budget that increases, at most, by no more than inflation in the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework, and that climate change objectives should be mainstreamed across all relevant headings, ensuring that the EU's investments are compatible with and contribute to the EU's cost-effective transition to a low carbon economy. The Government have made this case to the Commission and will continue to do so as negotiations on the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework progress.

Climate Change: Taiwan

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on participation by Taiwan in discussions on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. [68031]

Gregory Barker: The Government support Taiwan's practical participation in international organisations where this does not require statehood. Taiwan is currently represented at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meetings by a non-governmental organisation, the Industrial Technology Research Institute.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67922]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, has made eight return flights and a single in-country transfer flight in economy class within the last 12 months.

All travel is undertaken in line with the Ministerial Code.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68955]

Gregory Barker: No senior civil servants at permanent secretary, director general or director level have worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in the last four years.

The information on deputy directors is not available due to the disproportionate cost entailed in obtaining the information.

DECC does not hold central records of contracts. Therefore the information requested on contracts is not available due to the disproportionate cost entailed in obtaining the information.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68758]

Gregory Barker: In June 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change received 866 letters from hon. Members.

Electricity

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects his plans for electricity market reform to have delivered increased *(a)* security of supply and *(b)* competition. [68086]

Charles Hendry: The Electricity Market Reform White Paper, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/emr_wp_2011.aspx

includes a consultation on possible models for a capacity mechanism to deliver increased security of supply, by ensuring that sufficient reliable capacity is in place when needed. We will decide on the type of capacity mechanism around the turn of the year, and intend to legislate for the mechanism in the second session. Our current analysis indicates that a capacity mechanism is likely to be needed from around the end of this decade.

The electricity market reforms are about creating appropriate incentives to support investment, while improving competition to ensure that the costs to consumers are minimised. The EMR measures will work alongside other market reform proposals, for example from Ofgem, designed to improve competition in the market. We expect improvements to competition to follow the 2014 EMR implementation date.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that the retrofitting of the public sector estate with energy efficiency measures form part of his plans for electricity market reform. [68110]

Charles Hendry: The aim of electricity market reform is to ensure the investment we need to meet our security of supply and decarbonisation targets at least cost. Energy efficiency could have a role to play in meeting our targets in a cost-effective way, and we will assess whether the existing package of energy efficiency measures is providing adequate encouragement for efficiency improvements in electricity usage, to determine whether there might be a need for appropriate additional measures.

The retrofitting of the public sector estate with energy efficiency measures will not form a specific part of the electricity market reform programme. We encourage all public bodies to invest in energy efficiency, which enables them to reduce costs and CO_2 emissions. We have already taken decisive action to reduce central Government emissions by 13.8% (exceeding our original target of a 10% reduction). We are now being even more ambitious with a 25% target by the end of this Parliament.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with electricity company executives to discuss new market arrangements using long-term contracts in preparation for delivery of the fourth carbon budget. [68724]

Charles Hendry: A list of meetings that the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) has held with stakeholders, including electricity company executives, are published quarterly and can be found on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings involving officials of his Department were held in December 2010 to discuss the consultation on new electricity market arrangements; and who attended such meetings. [68728]

Charles Hendry: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DECC officials participated in a number of meetings in December 2010 on the EMR consultation with organisations including energy utilities, independent generators, independent renewable generators, consumer groups, Ofgem, National Grid, Green NGOs and investors.

Energy Bill 2010-12

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the memorandum (EN18) submitted by Which? to the Public Bill Committee on the Energy Bill [Lords]. [68788]

Gregory Barker: I welcome the contribution this detailed memorandum made to the progress of the Energy Bill in Committee stage, and value Which?'s ongoing engagement in the development of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. My officials have had constructive meetings with Which? in the course of preparing for this autumn's Consultation and I look forward to our continued engagement with Which? in the lead up to and during the Consultation.

Energy Performance Certificates

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to co-ordinate the Green Deal with the roll-out of energy performance certificates. [68109]

Gregory Barker: The existing Energy Performance Certificate (EPCs) will be adapted to form the basis of the Green Deal Assessment. The assessment starts every Green Deal customer journey.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on steps to improve the framework surrounding energy performance certificates. [68745]

Gregory Barker: Last year my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) initiated a joint examination of how the Energy Performance of Buildings regime, covering Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs), might be improved. Both Departments have been involved in regular meetings at both ministerial and official level to ensure that Green Deal and EPC policies fit together.

Energy: Billing

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he next plans to reassess the operational effectiveness of the Energy Retail Association Code of Practice for Accurate Billing; [68245]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of compliance by energy companies with their obligations under the Energy Retail Association Code of Practice for Accurate Billing. [68246]

Charles Hendry: The Code of Practice for Accurate Billing is a voluntary agreement sponsored by the Energy Retail Association, of which five of the big six suppliers are code members. The operational effectiveness and compliance are matters for the code's governing board.

Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply. It is open to Ofgem to consider whether additional regulatory protection is required.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what meetings he has had with representatives of major energy companies to discuss the issue of accurate billing since May 2010; [68247]

(2) what meetings his Department and its predecessor held with representatives of major energy companies to discuss the issue of accurate billing between May 2005 and May 2010. [68248]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers, both past and present, and officials meet with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

The Government have confirmed that smart meters will be rolled out to domestic customers by 2019. Smart meters allow remote reading of meters, and therefore enable entirely accurate billing.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of funds held by energy companies as a result of over-estimated consumer bills in the latest period for which figures are available; [68418]

(2) what assessment he has made of trends in the monetary value of funds held by energy companies as a result of over-estimated consumer bills. [68419]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including customer payments. In 2009, Ofgem introduced a new supply licence condition that came into effect in January 2010 and requires suppliers to ensure customers' direct debit payments are clearly and accurately explained and are based on the best available information. Suppliers are also required to justify why they are holding onto any credit balances built up by customers. It is for Ofgem to assess whether suppliers comply with the licence condition and take action if they do not.

Energy: British Antarctic Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure his Department has undertaken on energy provision in the British Antarctic territory. [68863]

Charles Hendry: None.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on energy provision in the British Antarctic territory. [68864]

Charles Hendry: DECC has no involvement in the provision of energy in the British Antarctic Territory.

The British Antarctic Survey maintains a permanent year-round British presence in Antarctica at its scientific bases Rothera and Halley. The provision of energy (including costs of procurement and transportation) to these bases is a matter for the British Antarctic Survey.

Energy: Conservation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effectiveness of the Community Energy Saving Programme. [68088]

Gregory Barker: A full assessment of the effectiveness of the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) can only be made after the scheme ends in December 2012. However, an independent evaluation of how the scheme has operated to date has been carried out and is informing the development of the future energy company obligation. A report on this CESP evaluation will be published in autumn 2011.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* the Greater Manchester Housing Retrofit Programme, *(b)* steps to encourage local authorities to become involved in delivering energy efficiency measures in their areas and *(c)* the extension of display energy certificates to commercial buildings. [68746]

Gregory Barker: The Department has liaised closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government on all of these issues.

(a) We will learn what we can from the Greater Manchester Housing Retrofit Programme to help inform the Green Deal;

(b) We have discussed a number of issues around local authority support for energy efficiency improvements in their area, including potential Green Deal models. We will work closely with DCLG on new guidance for the Home Energy Conservation Act;

(c) We have discussed the case for rolling out display energy certificates to commercial buildings and whether this could be done without placing undue burdens on business.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with *(a)* large retailers and private sector Green Deal participants and *(b)* energy companies to discuss partnerships under the Energy Company Obligation. [68749]

Gregory Barker: The Department has had a number of meetings with energy companies, large retailers and a range of other potential Green Deal participants. We have explored how we can design a framework that is sufficiently flexible to enable partnerships to develop.

The UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy (UKBCSE), representing energy companies, is working with DECC to develop an approach whereby all Green Deal providers can access ECO subsidy without necessarily needing formal partnerships with energy companies.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the likely sustained reductions in energy consumption by households following the installation of in-home displays. [69180]

Charles Hendry: The Impact Assessment in the smart meter rollout for the domestic sector (published 30 March 2011) estimates total consumer benefits of £4.6 billion. By 2020 the average domestic customer (with both electricity and gas) is expected to save around £23 per year on their energy bill as a result of smart metering.

We have assumed that the annual reductions in demand will be as follows: 2.8% for electricity (credit and pre-payment meter); 2% for gas credit and 0.5% for gas pre-payment meter. The likely sustained reductions in energy consumption are based on the combined impact of the installation of smart meters, in-home displays and our consumer engagement strategy . Our energy savings assumptions are based on reviews of available international evidence and further informed by trials carried out in Great Britain.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of ways of communicating with consumers other than via the in-home display. [69181]

Charles Hendry: The Government published their Response to the Prospectus Consultation[1] on smart metering on 30 March 2011. This stated that suppliers should provide domestic consumers with an in-home display that meets the relevant technical specifications, but that in addition we would expect to see the development of options for consumers to access smart metering information in other ways, for instance through the internet, mobile phones or locally via a personal computer. There is also potential to communicate energy consumption information and advice on paper, on or with energy bills or via a separate communication.

The Department assessed the findings of the final report of the Energy Demand Research Project (EDRP), co-funded by DECC and published on 23 June. This provided evidence specific to the GB context on the effectiveness of ways of communicating with consumers. The report concludes that the combination of smart meters and Real Time Displays consistently resulted in energy savings of around 3% but with some higher and lower savings, depending on fuel, customer group and period. The EDRP found that savings from generic written advice and historic feedback resulted in a reduction in consumption of up to 5%.

The Department also considered a number of international studies have considered the effectiveness of ways of communicating with consumers other than via the IHD. A recent review of 57 feedback studies in nine different countries by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy[2] found that on average feedback reduces energy consumption between 4-12%, with higher (9%) savings associated with real-time feedback.

Energy: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for Community Energy Saving Programme funding his Department has received from *(a)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(b)* each other London borough. [68684]

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[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/smart_mtr_imp/smart_mtr_imp.aspx

[2] Erhardt-Martinez, Donnelly, Laitner, Advanced Metering Initiatives and Residential Feedback Programs: A Meta-Review for Household Electricity-Saving Opportunities, June 2010.

Gregory Barker: The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) is funded by the obligated energy companies, who develop scheme proposals, with the involvement of the relevant local authority, for submission to the programme administrator, Ofgem.

As of 23 August 2011, CESP schemes in the following London boroughs had been submitted to Ofgem for approval:

London borough	*Number of schemes submitted per borough*
Tower Hamlets	2
Barking and Dagenham	2
Ealing	1
Hackney	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1
Haringey	1
Havering	3
Lambeth	1
Lewisham	1
Newham	1
Southwark	1
Waltham Forest	1
Westminster	1
Total	17

The 20 remaining London boroughs currently have no CESP schemes submitted to Ofgem for approval.

Energy: Housing

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1371W, on energy: housing, when he plans to publish the progress reports under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [68722]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the previous answer I gave him on 7 July: we will publish a HECA progress report after the launch of the Green Deal. This progress report will give consideration to retrospective data as well as future requirements under HECA.

Energy: Meters

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* effectiveness of existing smart meter technology in preparing its smart meter roll-out programme. [69173]

Charles Hendry: The Smart metering implementation programme is establishing common minimum specifications for the GB market which will ensure smart meters installed during mass roll-out are interoperable and deliver the functionalities required to realise the programme's benefits. These benefits include providing consumers with near real-time information to help them understand and manage their energy use, smoother and faster switching between suppliers, and removing the need for onsite meter readings.

The costs and benefits of a range of different features have been considered and analysed, supported by extensive consultation with industry, including product manufacturers, consumer groups and other stakeholders. This analysis informed the Government's conclusions on the minimum functional requirements for smart meters, which were set out in the March 2011 Response to the Prospectus consultation.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of individuals required to deliver the smart meter roll-out programme between 2014 and 2019. [69174]

Charles Hendry: In the March 2011 response to the Prospectus Consultation, the Government announced their intention to bring forward a proposal to obligate energy suppliers to complete the roll-out in 2019. It is expected that most consumers will receive a smart meter between 2014 and 2019.

The Government will also require larger suppliers to submit and maintain plans that are realistically capable of achieving their roll-out obligations. Energy suppliers are currently developing their individual roll-out strategies which will include detailed work force planning. At the peak of mass roll-out a significantly larger work force will be required than current levels. Recent research by The National Skills Academy (August 2011) estimates that in the peak years of 2016 and 2017, around 7,500-8,000 meter installers will be employed compared to existing work force levels of approximately 3,200 people.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the cost per household of the smart meter roll-out programme. [69175]

Charles Hendry: The Government's impact assessment estimates that the roll-out of smart meters to the domestic sector will deliver a net benefit of almost £5.1 billion, leading to an average bill saving of £23 per household in 2020 and £42 in 2030. This reflects an estimated total gross cost of the programme of £10.8 billion, offset by more than £15.8 billion in gross benefits. These benefits include the direct savings to households as they are able to use energy more efficiently and the cost savings achieved by energy suppliers which are expected to be passed through to consumers.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has investigated the use of mobile telephone tariff and billing structures as best practice for the introduction of smart meter tariff and billing. [69176]

Charles Hendry: The Government expect the rollout of smart meters to open up the energy market to new products and services, including more innovative energy tariffs. While we do not currently expect to mandate tariff structures, we believe it is important that all consumers are able to take advantage of the benefits of smart metering. The programme will monitor and review the progress of the smart metering rollout, including the consumer experience of the process, and evaluate the evolving costs and benefits.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the £23 in savings per household per year expected by the smart metering programme has been included in the estimated increases in consumer energy bills set out in the Electricity Market Reform White Paper. [69177]

Charles Hendry: The impact of EMR on household electricity bills is presented relative to a baseline that includes all the energy and climate change policies that are already in place or have been planned to a sufficient degree of detail (i.e. with quantified estimates of costs and benefits).

The baseline bill includes the impact of the environmental policies such as the Existing and Extended RO, Carbon Price Floor, Feed-in-Tariffs, EU Emissions Trading System and EU Minimum Efficiency Standards for Energy using Products. In addition, the baseline bill for the average household includes the impact of the GB rollout of smart meters, Community Energy Saving Programme, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), CERT Extension, a Future Supplier Obligation following CERT, Better Billing, and Security measures.

In the baseline, average household electricity bills rise by approximately £200 by 2030. This increase is driven by increases in wholesale prices, network costs, as well as environmental policies.

With EMR policies in place, the increase in average household electricity bills could be limited to £160.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to engage consumers in the smart meter roll-out programme. [69178]

Charles Hendry: The Government published their Response to the Prospectus Consultation[1] on smart metering on 30 March 2011. This stated that the Government will develop a strategy for promoting consumer engagement and that there is a strong case for some elements to be carried out centrally or on a co-ordinated basis. The Department is now working to develop the strategy and a plan for its implementation, working closely with industry, consumer groups and other stakeholders.

[1] www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/smart_mtr_imp/smart_mtr_imp.aspx

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population which uses pre-payment and pay-as-you-go meters to pay for energy supplies; and for what reasons such capabilities are being built into smart meters for the smart meter roll-out programme. [69179]

Charles Hendry: In the March 2011 Response to the Prospectus consultation, the Government set out the functional requirements for smart meters. The costs and benefits of a range of different features have been considered and analysed, supported by extensive consultation with industry, consumer groups and other stakeholders. The functional requirements have been developed to ensure the benefits of the programme are delivered.

In 2010 Ofgem[1] estimated that around 15% of electricity customers and 12% of gas customers paid through a pre-payment meter. The remote functionality of smart meters will allow switching between payment methods (credit or prepayment) without the expense of exchanging the meter and will reduce the current higher than average costs associated with providing services to pre-payment customers. It is expected that new and more flexible payment options will be introduced, such as top-ups over the phone, via the internet, or at automated teller machines (ATMs), supporting a wider pay-as-you-go market. The pre-payment capability should also enable suppliers to better manage customer debt, resulting in cost savings that can be passed on to all consumers.

[1] Domestic suppliers' social obligations: 2010 annual report (re/78/11).

Energy: National Policy Statements

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons he has not included the Committee on Climate Change's 2030 carbon emissions reduction target in the Energy National Policy Statement (EN-1). [67502]

Charles Hendry: We did not include the Committee's advice on the 2030 carbon emissions reduction target because 2030 is halfway through the fifth carbon budget (2028-32) which has not yet been set. The fifth carbon budget will be set by June 2016, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008.

Environment Protection: Taxation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the level of subsidy to energy companies created by the introduction of a carbon floor price in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15. [66359]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The carbon price floor announced in the Budget is intended to create economic incentives to invest in low-carbon electricity generation. It does not provide a subsidy to energy companies.

Gas-fired Power Stations

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the generating capacity is of combined cycle gas turbine plants approved by his Department since 5 May 2010. [66990]

Charles Hendry: Between 5 May 2010 and 31 August, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, granted consent under s.36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to five combined cycle gas turbine plants with a total maximum generating capacity of 5670 megawatts (MW).

Green Deal Scheme

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has considered the potential effects on the impartiality of Green Deal assessors of sales commissions and other incentives. [67659]

Gregory Barker: The impartiality of the assessment will be protected through the application of a standardised methodology and quality assurance of assessors' work by UKAS-accredited certification bodies. Assessors working for Green Deal providers will also be subject to compliance with relevant requirements around disclosure of information, such as commercial affiliations.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings his Department has had with representatives of the commercial sector on the application of the Green Deal to the non-domestic sector. [68743]

Gregory Barker: Ministers and officials have had extensive engagement with commercial sector representatives on the Green Deal including an industry round table meeting which I chaired, several individual meetings and a regular forum co-ordinated by the British Property Federation.

Mass Media

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to *(a)* the publication by the Prime Minister of his meetings with media executives and *(b)* paragraph 74 of the Third Report of the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09, on written parliamentary questions, HC 952, if he will publish a list of each meeting the right hon. Member for Doncaster North (Edward Miliband) held with newspaper and media proprietors, editors and senior media executives, whilst he was Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, disclosing the same information as if a request had been submitted under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provisions and using the same criteria and methodology as the Prime Minister in compiling his list. [69018]

Gregory Barker: It is not the responsibility of the current Government to account for the previous Government.

Motor Vehicles

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have met representatives of (i) BMW, (ii) Chevrolet, (iii) Ford, (iv) Peugeot, (v) Vauxhall and (vi) Volkswagen to discuss vehicle efficiency improvements since May 2010. [68633]

Gregory Barker: Meetings of DECC Ministers with external organisations are published quarterly on the Department's website.

Natural Gas: Business

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on reducing the cost of gas to businesses. [68070]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

Ofgem is tackling barriers to effective competition such as low wholesale market liquidity in its retail market review, which should put pressure on prices. In addition, we are taking steps through the Energy Bill to confer on Ofgem a power to sharpen commercial incentives on gas shippers to prepare for low probability/high impact gas supply disruptions. This is intended to improve the resilience of our gas supply infrastructure, and should reduce the impact of such events on prices.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of decommissioning arrangements for currently operating nuclear power stations. [67061]

Charles Hendry: Currently operating power stations include the 15 reactors at eight nuclear power stations which EDF Energy operates in the UK following its acquisition of British Energy, and the two reactors operated by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

Detailed plans have been developed by the NDA for decommissioning Oldbury and Wylfa, incorporating lessons learnt from decommissioning the earlier Magnox stations. These plans have recently been reviewed by DECC and Shareholder Executive to define the programme of work for this spending review period.

EDF Energy is responsible for decommissioning its own stations, but the NDA is charged with reviewing and approving EDF's plans, and approving payments for decommissioning by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. These plans are now integrated with the Magnox equivalents, with the expectation that this approach will produce future cost savings.

A comprehensive report on decommissioning arrangements for operating nuclear power stations was included as part of the Government's contribution to the 3rd Report to the European Council and European Parliament on the Management of Financial Resources for the Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations, Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he expects the EU nuclear stress testing process to take of Dr Weightman's final report on lessons learnt for the UK nuclear industry from events at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear site in March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [68204]

Charles Hendry: The EU nuclear stress test initiative arises from conclusions of the European Council on 25 March 2011 and cover all 143 nuclear powers plants across the EU, whereas Dr Weightman's report is in response to a commission from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the implications for the UK nuclear industry from the Fukushima incident in March 2011. Dr Weightman's interim report of May 2011 contains 26 recommendations and it is his expectation that UK nuclear plant operators will take appropriate account of his recommendations in their stress tests.

Dr Weightman will address progress on the UK stress tests in his final report to the Secretary of State in the autumn. The Office for Nuclear Regulation will provide a separate report on the final UK results to the European

Commission, in line with its timetable, in December which will contribute to EU wide conclusions on the initiative.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that the nuclear stress tests agreed by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group are adhered to in full; and if he will make a statement. [68205]

Charles Hendry: EU member states agreed that stress tests will be undertaken at all 143 nuclear power plants in the EU from June onwards. Plant operators are undertaking the stress tests and will report their findings to the national nuclear regulators for assessment and verification in two stages, a progress report by 15 August and a final report by 31 October 2011. National regulators will then produce a national report on progress by 15 September and the final findings by 31 December 2011. Both reports will be submitted to the European Commission.

The UK national regulator, the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR), has written to, and had meetings with, all UK nuclear power plant operators setting out what is expected of them in relation to applying the criteria of the stress test. This has been done as part of ONR's regulatory function to ensure that operators are complying with the UK's regulatory framework which requires operators to achieve, so far as is reasonably practicable, continuous improvements in safety. Applying the lessons learned from events at Fukushima is covered by this general legal duty on operators.

Should the ONR consider that operators are not meeting their statutory responsibilities at any time, it has the necessary enforcement powers to achieve compliance.

Nuclear Power: Decommissioning

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent on (i) military and (ii) civil nuclear decommissioning in (A) each of the last 10 years and (B) 2011-12; and how much has been budgeted for expenditure in each category in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [68203]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, established in 2005, is responsible for tackling the UK's historic civil and military legacy. It is funded by a combination of direct Government grant, and commercial income. The following table sets out what the NDA has spent since its formation on completing its core mission, excluding commercial operations, alongside its projected spending for each year of the next spending review period. Due to the integration of many of civil and military historic legacy facilities, it is not possible to separate expenditure on civil and military decommissioning. The NDA's mission is to decommission the whole nuclear legacy estate as efficiently as possible, and the most effective approach is to treat it as a whole—irrespective of origin.

	NDA expenditure, excluding commercial
2005-06	1,596
2006-07	1,699
2007-08	1,779
2008-09	1,909
2009-10	2,162
2010-11	2,069
2011-12	2,441
2012-13	2,449
2013-14	2,527
2014-15	2,405

Prior to 2005 nuclear legacy issues which are now the responsibility of the NDA were owned by British Nuclear Fuels and the UK Atomic Energy Authority. Details of their expenditure on decommissioning are set out in their published annual reports and accounts.

The decommissioning of current military nuclear facilities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and covers a wide range of activities, from submarine reactors and nuclear warheads to infrastructure. Details of budgeted and actual costs for military nuclear decommissioning, are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Furthermore, the MOD does not routinely publish figures for anticipated annual project expenditure, as to do so would prejudice commercial interests and jeopardise the negotiating position of the Department.

Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power stations; and if he will make a statement. [68085]

Gregory Barker: As part of the electricity market reform package to decarbonise electricity generation published on 12 July 2011, the Government have proposed an Emissions Performance Standard which will provide a clear regulatory signal on the amount of carbon new fossil-fuel power stations can emit.

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on efforts to achieve carbon reduction targets of the use of coal-fired power stations. [69185]

Gregory Barker: Coal provides a valuable role in the UK's energy mix, providing diversity and security of supply. We cannot, however, sustain investment in new, wholly unabated coal if we are to meet our carbon targets. Fossil fuels with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) can play a vital role in our future energy mix, helping to balance baseload nuclear and intermittent renewables. CCS is the only technology that can significantly reduce $C0_2$ emissions from fossil fuel power stations—by as much as 90%. That is why the Government are committed to providing public funding for four CCS demonstration plants.

Solar Power: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on investment in solar power in British Overseas Territories in each of the past five years. [68865]

Gregory Barker: DECC has not spent any money on solar power in British Overseas Territories in any of the last five years.

Solar Power: Satellites

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Government has *(a)* commissioned or *(b)* evaluated any research into the practicalities of transmitting solar energy by satellite from space to Earth. [69184]

Gregory Barker: We are not aware of any such research undertaken by the Government. The 2011 Budget includes a £10 million provision for the UK Space Agency to support the development of space technology in the UK through a competition process which could include technologies for space-based solar power generation and supply to ground.

Thorium: Research

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tewkesbury of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 295-6W, on thorium, what the cost was of the study by the National Nuclear Laboratory; whether the study was put out for competitive tender; and in what form the findings will be made publicly available. [66937]

Charles Hendry: The cost of the study by the National Nuclear Laboratory on Advanced Reactor Designs and Fuel Cycle options, referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr Robertson), is £30,000. As is routine for projects of this value that require the resources of unique, specialist institutions, it was let as a single tender- action following scrutiny via DECC's business approvals process.

The findings will be made available to the public in the form of the peer-reviewed reports that NNL will supply, as well as being summarised in a more accessible form to non-experts via DECCs routine communications and correspondence.

Tidal Power: Manpower

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 493W, on tidal power: manpower, if he will commission an independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the wave and tidal sector in the UK up to 2050; [67927]

(2) whether he has considered the merits of commissioning an independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the *(a)* offshore and *(b)* onshore wind industry in the UK up to 2050; [67942]

(3) what consideration his Department has given to commissioning an independent assessment of the potential number of people that could be employed by the renewable energy industry in the UK up to 2050. [67945]

Charles Hendry: We are aware of a number of assessments by external bodies on the future employment potential of the renewable energy sector, including:

Wave and tidal

The Carbon Trust's "Focus For Success" report estimates that the wave sector alone could create around 16,000 direct jobs by 2040, with 25% supporting UK exports.

Offshore wind

The Carbon Trust estimates that the offshore wind sector could employ up to 66,000 people in the UK by 2020 with a possibility of up to 230,000 by 2050[1].

Onshore wind

RenewableUK estimates in "Working for a Green Britain Vol 2: Future employment and skills in the UK wind and marine industries" that under a medium scenario there could be around 10,300 direct and 6,100 indirect jobs in the onshore wind sector in 2021.

Biomass energy

A number of studies have been conducted to consider the economic potential in the bioenergy sector. For example, a 2007 study to quantify employment from biomass power plants2 showed that power only bioenergy systems typically create 1.27 man years of employment per GWh electricity produced. A recent study for the Forestry Commission in June 2010 found that the woodfuel sector alone could contribute £1 billion to the UK economy by 2020 and support 15,300 jobs[3].

Given these and other independent reports, I have no plans to commission further evidence but will keep this under review. The Government fully recognise the employment opportunities that the growth of renewable energy can create.

[1] Source: http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/news/news/press-centre/2011/Pages/offshore-wind-gg.aspx

[2] "Quantification of employment from biomass power plants" (Thornley et al, November 2007).

[3] "The economic value of the woodfuel industry to the UK economy by 2020" (Centre for Economics and Business Research, 2010).

Utilities: Competition

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking in relation to geographical monopolies by utility companies. [66394]

Charles Hendry: Energy networks operators, as with most utility network operators, are natural monopolies, and are therefore closely regulated to protect consumers. In this sector the energy regulator. Ofgem, regulates the companies through five-year price control periods which mimic the effects of competition by curbing their expenditure and incentivising them to be efficient and to innovate technically.

Price controls are set for the 14 companies that run the regional electricity networks, the four companies that operate the energy transmission networks and the four companies that own the local gas distribution networks.

Competition does exist with regard to constructing new connections between the consumer and the local electricity network, which is an important element of work undertaken by network operators. Customers of network operators have the option to have some of the connection work, referred to as contestable work, carried out by a third party connection provider.

Wind Power

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings his Department has held with representatives of *(a)* Gamesa, *(b)* Siemens and *(c)* Vestas on planned turbine manufacture in the UK. [68616]

Charles Hendry: I regularly meet with the developers responsible for the construction of offshore wind farms through the Offshore Wind Developers' Forum, which brings together Government and industry to help remove barriers to the development of the sector and to maximise the economic benefit to the UK. The most recent meeting of the forum took place on 21 June. The Department has also held a number of meetings with companies considering investing in new manufacturing facilities to serve the offshore wind sector, details of which are commercially confidential.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 September 2011

TRANSPORT

Airports: Closures

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many airports have closed in the last two years; whether he has estimated the number of airports at risk of closure; and if he will make a statement. [68565]

Mrs Villiers: Coventry airport temporarily closed in 2009, before reopening in 2010. I am aware of the announcement that Plymouth airport is to close by the end of the year, following the cessation of passenger services. We recognise the important role that airports can play in local economies but closure plans are a commercial matter for the airport operator.

Aviation: Security

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will investigate the effect of the application by low-cost airlines of the one-bag rule for carry-on baggage on the behaviour of passengers making purchases at airports. [68066]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has no plans to investigate this issue. The size and amount of cabin or hold baggage that a passenger is permitted to take on board a commercial aircraft is a matter for airlines to decide as private commercial companies.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission regarding the Spanish Government's recent legislation on passenger rights to take duty free and travel retail purchase onto an aircraft in addition to their normal airline hand baggage allowance. [68194]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has had no discussions. The size and amount of cabin or hold baggage that a passenger is permitted to take on board a commercial aircraft is a matter for airlines to decide as private commercial companies.

Aviation: Taiwan

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on participation by Taiwan as an observer country in proceedings of the International Civil Aviation Organisation. [68030]

Mrs Villiers: The Government support Taiwan's practical participation in international organisations where this does not require statehood.

Taiwan continues to seek meaningful participation in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and has attended a number of ICAO events, including the 37th Assembly in October last year, in an unofficial capacity. However, we are not aware of there being any formal approaches to the organisation.

There have not been any formal discussions either with Taiwan or ICAO on this matter and it is for Taiwan itself to decide how it wishes to proceed.

Cycling: Accidents

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrian *(a)* injuries and *(b)* fatalities have resulted from collisions with cyclists in each year since 2003. [68458]

Mike Penning: The information requested is given in the following table:

Reported number of pedestrian casualties in accidents involving pedal cycles in Great Britain: 2003-10

		Number of casualties
	Killed	*Injured*[1]
2003	4	255
2004	1	235
2005	3	276
2006	3	223
2007	4	225
2008	1	260
2009	0	292
2010	4	337

[1] Seriously and slightly injured

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Road Traffic

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the likely effect on traffic volumes at the Dartford Crossing of a new crossing to the west to link the North and South Circular Roads. [68651]

Mike Penning: The Department does not currently have any plans to assess the likely effect on traffic volumes at the Dartford Crossing of a new crossing to the west to link the North and South Circular Roads. However, the Department did make clear in its spending review announcement last autumn that it would embark on a review of the options for future capacity in the Lower Thames area. The Department is in the process of programming this work and will need to consider various factors that could influence traffic demand in defining the scope of further work.

Driving Offences

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers of non-UK registered vehicles were discovered driving in the UK beyond the allowed six-month period in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008, *(f)* 2009 and *(g)* 2010; and what steps his Department takes with respect to such drivers upon discovery. [68132]

Mike Penning: Between 2006 and 2011, 1,749 non-UK registered vehicles have been clamped for being in the UK for over six months without re-registering. The figures are not broken down on an annual basis.

If there is evidence that a foreign vehicle is in breach of the law, it can be clamped and impounded. In addition to enforcement action, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency operate a strategy of education and awareness to tackle non-compliant unlicensed foreign vehicles. This approach has included presentations to community leaders, articles in the media, the issue of information leaflets and warning notices placed on vehicles' windscreens.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to ensure that drivers of non-UK registered vehicles have appropriate motor insurance when driving in the UK. [68135]

Mike Penning: All drivers using roads in the UK must have at least third party insurance covering the use of their vehicle in this country. Under EU law all insurance policies issued in any EU member state must include the use of that vehicle for minimum third party risks for temporary visits to all EU member states.

Drivers must be able to produce evidence that they have the necessary insurance cover in place on request from the police.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to identify drivers of non-UK registered vehicles who continue to drive in the UK beyond the allowed six-month period. [68136]

Mike Penning: There is no central database of non-UK registered vehicles; the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) rely on road sighting reported to them from the police, traffic enforcement officials and members of the public and it records details of sightings of foreign vehicles to assist in estimating the time a vehicle has been present in the UK. If there is evidence that a foreign vehicle is in breach of the law, it can be clamped and impounded.

The DVLA operate a strategy of education, warning as well as direct enforcement action to help tackle non-compliant unlicensed foreign vehicles. This approach has included presentations to community leaders, articles in the media, the issue of information leaflets and warning notices placed on vehicles' windscreens.

Driving Tests: Older People

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration the Government has given to measures to ensure that drivers over the age of 70 are fit to drive a motor vehicle in the last 10 years. [69114]

Mike Penning: The Strategic Framework for Road Safety, published on 11 May 2011, considers the issue of older drivers continuing to drive. It makes clear that we do not believe that mandatory re-testing is the best way forward. We favour an approach which helps older drivers to maintain and adapt their skills, including providing advice and support on when to reduce or stop driving and change to other methods of travel to maintain mobility. The framework includes a number of examples of education schemes for older drivers provided by local authorities and the training industry. We are looking to work with the voluntary sector and the training industry to develop further training schemes for older drivers.

Driving: Eyesight

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the number plate test for drivers meets the requirements of the EC Directive on Driving Licences 2009/113/EC which includes a recommendation for a visual field of at least 120 degrees. [68250]

Mike Penning: The number plate test is not intended or used to test the visual field. Optician based eyesight tests are used to ensure that those who have an underlying eye condition affecting the visual field are able to meet the appropriate standard.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data his Department has on the number of drivers on UK roads with eyesight that does not meet minimum standards required for safety. [68258]

Mike Penning: The Department does not hold data relating to the number of drivers on UK roads with eyesight that does not meet minimum standards.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evidence he has on the effects of the number plate test for driver's eyesight on the road casualty incidence. [68259]

Mike Penning: No evidence is held.

Driving: Stop and Search

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of drivers of non-UK registered vehicles who were stopped by the police on suspicion of committing a crime were found to have adequate motor insurance in each year from 2004. [68131]

Mike Penning: We do not hold the information.

All drivers using roads in the UK must have at least third party insurance covering the use of their vehicle in this country and be able to produce evidence that they have the necessary insurance cover in place on request from the police.

Live Animal Export

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847 to allow the owner of a port to refuse its use for the export of live animals. [69182]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon) on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 956W.

Liverpool Port

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department has been notified of plans to build a baggage and passenger handling facility and additional vehicle bridge at the Liverpool Cruise Terminal; [68461]

(2) whether his Department has been notified of the plan by Liverpool city council to provide funding for a baggage and passenger handling facility and additional vehicle bridge at the Liverpool Cruise Terminal. [68462]

Mike Penning: The Department is aware that improvements to the terminal would be required in the event that cruise turnaround operations are allowed to commence there, and we understand that Liverpool city council has provisionally budgeted for some such works.

The consultation on the proposal to permit turnaround at the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal, in return for a partial repayment of grant, ends on 15 September.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the net present value is of the proposal by Liverpool city council to pay £5.3 million to the Exchequer over 15 years for the purposes of permitting turnaround calls at Liverpool Cruise Terminal. [68463]

Mike Penning: The net present value of the repayments, as of any revenue stream, depends on the base period and discount rate applied. Using a 5% nominal rate on a base one year before the first repayment, the net present value would be approximately £3.75 million.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of potential economic effects *(a)* in Liverpool and *(b)* elsewhere associated with proposals to allow the Liverpool Cruise Terminal to be used for turnaround calls. [68464]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah) on 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1317W.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals relating to changes in the frequency of MOT testing; and if he will make a statement. [68452]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 141W, to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consideration he has given to changes in the rate of wear of tyres in formulating his plans to reform the MOT testing schedule; [68472]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings that will arise from his planned changes to the MOT testing schedule. [68473]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 141W, to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when commercial discussions with the Northern franchisee were initiated on the subject of provision of additional rolling stock to alleviate overcrowding on peak rail services in the North of England; and whether he has given consideration to using section 54 undertakings to reduce the costs of providing additional rolling stock on the Northern franchise in order to alleviate overcrowding in peak time rail services. [68095]

Mrs Villiers: Commercial discussions began in December 2009 after Northern Rail submitted a proposal for the procurement of additional rolling stock. The proposal was subsequently split into smaller interventions to assist delivery. Two agreements were signed in March 2010 for the operation of a net total of 18 additional carriages. Following the pause of the HLOS Programme due to the General Election in May 2010 and the subsequent spending review, negotiations resumed in January 2011 with Northern Rail for the conclusion of the remaining interventions. An agreement was reached in April 2011 for 20 additional EMU carriages and the final agreement was signed on 1 August 2011 for an additional 22 carriages.

A section 54 was not considered appropriate for the additional rolling stock proposed for operation.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the commitments in his Department's business plan relate to the provision of rolling stock on overcrowded rail services in the North of England; and what progress has been made on each such commitment. [68096]

Mrs Villiers: In its business plan, the Department is committed to complete the remaining negotiations with the Train Operating Companies for additional Diesel Multiple Units (DMU) by September 2011 and Electric Multiple Units (EMU) by December 2011.

So far the Department has completed negotiations for the operation of 20 additional EMU carriages and 22 DMU carriages in the north of England.

In addition, the Department is committed to the procurement of at least 36 new Electric Carriages for the Manchester-Scotland route by December 2011. Officials are currently in negotiation with TransPennine Express and expect to make an announcement later this year.

Overall, the Department is committed to introducing 650 additional carriages on the rail network between May 2010 and March 2014. This was announced on 25 November 2010 following the comprehensive spending review. At least 104 of these carriages will be deployed in the north of England. In addition, the lengthened Pendolino trains which are planned for the Intercity West Coast franchise will benefit cities in the north west of England.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to provide additional carriages to alleviate overcrowding on peak services in the North of England under the Northern franchise agreement. [68097]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has agreed to provide Northern Rail with a total of £30.4 million for the operation of a total of net 60 additional carriages. This covers the net cost of additional passenger services until the end of the Northern Franchise.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what metrics his Department will use to measure progress in alleviating overcrowding on peak services into Greater Manchester under the Northern franchise agreement. [68098]

Mrs Villiers: In August 2011 the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) published a new table based on summarised autumn 2010 passenger count data supplied by the DfT. This table covers AM peak arrivals and PM peak departures to/from each major regional city on a typical weekday in autumn 2010. It includes statistics on service provision (number of services and number of seats), passenger demand and number of standing passengers. This new table will be published annually as part of ORR's National Rail Trends.

The four HLOS agreements with Northern Rail will deliver 82% of the 2007 White Paper capacity (seats and standing spaces) target for the three hour morning peak into Manchester. In addition, the East Midlands Trains agreement concluded in March 2010 increases this to 103% of the target. Northern Rail have the contractual obligations to meet this target and the TOC will be updating the Department on progress in achieving this.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much additional rolling stock will be provided through the Northern franchise agreement to alleviate overcrowded peak rail services into Greater Manchester in each of the next three years; and how many services entering Greater Manchester between 07.00 and 09.59 will be allocated the additional carriages procured by his Department through Northern Rail under the Northern franchise agreement. [68099]

Mrs Villiers: On 1 August, the Department concluded a final agreement with Northern Rail to procure additional carriages to alleviate crowding into Manchester and other northern cities. The majority of the additional carriages provide capacity into Greater Manchester.

A total of 60 carriages will be introduced on the Northern Rail network. 10 of these are already in service and the remaining carriages will be introduced on the network in December 2011 and will be used until the end of the franchise.

A total of 34 Northern Rail services into Greater Manchester between 07.00 and 09.59 will be strengthened, providing an additional 3,363 spaces (seating and standing). In addition, the Department has also secured 840 spaces on East Midlands Trains services into Manchester Piccadilly.

Parliament Square: Accidents

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were (i) killed, (ii) seriously injured and (iii) slightly injured crossing the road in Parliament Square in each of the last three years for which information is available. [68140]

Mike Penning: The number of reported pedestrian casualties injured on roads in Parliament Square in each of the last three years is as follows:

In 2008:

One male aged 20-29 was slightly injured; and

One female aged 30-39 was slightly injured.

In 2009:

Three males aged 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 were slightly injured.

In 2010:

One female aged 70-79 was seriously injured; and

Two females aged 12-15, 40-49, and one further of unknown age were slightly injured.

Railways

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce vertical integration on the rail network. [65269]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has taken receipt of Sir Roy McNulty's final report on the value for money of the railway. The Department will be working closely with the Office of Rail Regulation and the rail industry over the next few months to analyse Sir Roy's recommendations and to agree proposals for the reform of the industry. The Government are expected to publish their proposals for the future of the rail industry in November.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to support the reinstatement of local railway branch lines. [68840]

Mrs Villiers: It is for local authorities and Passenger Transport Executives, working with local enterprise partnerships to determine whether a new railway line, train service or station is the best way to meet local transport needs and to secure funding for set up and running costs.

The Government have created opportunities for local promoters to secure funding for new local rail schemes by setting up the Regional Growth Fund and Local Sustainable Transport Fund, in addition to the Local Major Transport Schemes Budget.

Rescue Services: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what risk assessment on the closure of the coastguard stations at Clyde and Forth has been carried out; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [68197]

Mike Penning: The proposals that I published on 14 July 2011 included an assessment of the systemic risks associated with the existing national Coastguard structure, of which Clyde and Forth form a part.

The proposals for modernisation deal with the risks through the application of risk controls or mitigation.

This information can be found within the supporting documentation to the Consultation document that is available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website

www.dft.gov.uk/mca

Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what long-term rolling stock cascade plans his Department has prepared; and when he plans to announce them. [61256]

Mrs Villiers: Work is under way to provide additional rolling stock on many routes around the country. Combined with the IEP, Thameslink and Crossrail projects, our plan is that 2,700 new carriages will be in service by the end of 2019. 349 additional carriages were added to the network during the coalition's first 12 months in office and progress has been made on the procurement process for carriages to be delivered under the IEP, Thameslink and Crossrail programmes.

The last formal rolling stock plan was prepared by the previous administration, and published in July 2008. We will be considering Sir Roy McNulty's recommendations on rolling stock but start from the position that the rail industry should be best placed to lead on rolling stock cascade proposals, with the Government's role primarily focused on ensuring that these represent value for money.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger rail vehicles his Department has ordered from manufacturers domiciled in the UK since January 2004. [68847]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has not ordered any passenger rail vehicles since January 2004. The procurement of rolling stock is typically a matter for train operators and rolling stock leasing companies, with the Department's role being limited to ensuring that taxpayers and farepayers receive value for money.

The Department for Transport is leading on the procurement of vehicles for the Thameslink and Intercity Express Projects but these are only at preferred bidder stage.

While the Department facilitated the additional Class 390 Pendolino carriages that have recently begun to enter service, these were procured by Virgin West Coast Projects Ltd.

Some years ago the Department began the process to procure 200 new diesel carriages but this was cancelled once further electrification of the network was announced.

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what weighting is given in the evaluation of bids for rolling stock procured by his Department to *(a)* the RADAR plans for train manufacture and delivery submitted by bidders and *(b)* the empirical evidence of record of delivery of bidders in the UK and other countries. [69205]

Mrs Villiers: For rolling stock procurements led by the Department (namely the Thameslink and Intercity Express Programme procurements) bidders needed to clear compliance and deliverability assessments in order to pass the pre-qualification process. The empirical evidence of bidders' delivery in the UK and other countries was assessed in each programme's Pre-Qualification Questionnaire using a derivative of the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Business Excellence Model aligned to the Department's objectives in conjunction with the RADAR method. The accreditation process for Thameslink, with associated weightings, may be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100409040702/
http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/thameslinkrollingstock/

Following pre-qualification the bidders' responses to the Thameslink Invitation to Tender were required to include management plans demonstrating project deliverability. The RADAR methodology was also applied here. The assessment used the information submitted in the bidders' plans. The project deliverability assessment for Thameslink and associated weightings can also be seen on the Department's website.

Shipping: EU Law

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the UK's compliance with EU Directive 2009/16/EC on port state control; and how many foreign flagged high risk vessels have been inspected in the last period for which figures are available. [69203]

Mike Penning: The UK has implemented a risk-based inspection scheme from 1 January 2011 and is carrying out duties under the directive to detain substandard ships. Draft regulations to complete implementation of the directive are under consultation with the shipping industry with a view to their being in place by the end of the year. 19 high risk foreign flag ships have been inspected in the period 1 January to 31 July 2011.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, if he will make representations to the European Commission to seek to change the terms of the invitation to tender for the Thameslink contract to ensure that any effect on UK employment levels can be taken into account. [65660]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 July 2011]*: The Secretary of State does not propose to make representations to the European Commission to seek to change the terms of the invitation to tender for the Thameslink rolling stock contract.

He is satisfied that the process as advised to the bidders in the 2008 invitation to tender issued by the previous Government has been complied with. Neither the UK Government nor the European Commission has the power to make a retrospective change in terms of the tender which would override the rights of parties engaged in the tender process.

The Government will be considering the operation of EU procurement rules as part of our Growth Review, which may impact on future public sector procurement.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will estimate the proportion of the financing provided by members of the Cross London Trains consortium for the bid for the Thameslink rolling stock contract that came from pension funds from schemes in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector; and if he will list any pensions schemes that contributed funding to the bid; [68704]

(2) which companies have provided finance for the *(a)* bid for and *(b)* delivery of the Thameslink rolling stock contract by Siemens. [68717]

Mrs Villiers: Prior to the issue of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project (TRSP) Invitation to Tender the Department entered into a Process Agreement with each bidder which requires the parties to maintain confidentiality during the TRSP procurement process.

The Process Agreement requires the Secretary of State for Transport and the Department to keep confidential all information of whatsoever nature made available by the Bidder directly or indirectly as part of the content or terms of any TRSP proposal. The Process Agreement remains in force and consequently neither the bidder nor the Department may disclose any details about the TRSP bidders' proposals.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has sought legal advice on the possibility of reversing the award of preferred bidder status for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [68732]

Mrs Villiers: It is in the public interest that the decisions taken by the Secretary of State are taken in a fully informed legal context where relevant. Communications between the Secretary of State and his legal advisers are subject to legal advice privilege.

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* the public procurement rules or *(b)* the utilities rules were used for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [68850]

Mrs Villiers: The Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 are being used for this procurement.

This is clear from the *OJEU* notice published in April 2008, and was also confirmed in section 2.1.1 of the Invitation to Tender (ITT), which is available on the DfT website.

Planning

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what impact assessment his Department has carried out on potential changes in parking provision arising from draft version 4 of the National Planning Policy Framework; [67426]

(2) whether rural developments will require the same provision of transport links as are required in urban areas under the provisions of draft version 4 of the National Planning Policy Framework. [67428]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

The National Planning Policy Framework consultation, which includes a draft impact assessment, was launched on 25 July. Copies of all documents are in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Association of Chief Police Officers: Finance

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to the Association of Chief Police Officers for property for the use of police officers and police staff in *(a)* the City of Westminster, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [60055]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Accidents: Fees and Charges

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales have received money from accident referral fees in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how much each such force received. [66839]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: The Home Office does not maintain records of police operational practice. Police forces should not make referrals of the sort suggested. Both the police and their contractors are bound by data protection legislation. When necessary the police do make arrangements for the removal of vehicles, including those involved in road traffic collisions. They contract with vehicle recovery operators for this work. The charges the police can impose on vehicle owners for such removals are set by secondary legislation and aim to meet the costs incurred. The exercise of their removal powers and the arrangements made in every case are operational matters for the police forces concerned.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence her Department has collated of improved public behaviour among late night drinkers in towns and cities since 2010. [68945]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has not collated evidence specifically on improved public behaviour among late night drinkers in towns and cities since 2010.

The Home Office routinely asks about public perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour and whether victims of violent crime believed the offender to be under the influence of alcohol, through the British Crime Survey.

Findings from the 2010-11 British Crime Survey showed that 23.7% of adults perceived problems with drunk or rowdy behaviour in their local area. This proportion was similar to the level in the 2009-10 survey (23.9%), with the apparent decrease not being statistically significant. The results were published in Crime in England and Wales 2010-11 in July 2011 and are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/hosb1011?view=Binary

According to the 2009-10 British Crime Survey, victims believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol in 50% (equating to 986,000) of all violent incidents. These levels were similar to the ones in the 2008-09 survey where victims believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol in 47% (equating to 973,000) of all violent incidents. These results were published in Crime in England and Wales 2009-10 in July 2010 and are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1210/hosb1210?view=Binary

Corresponding figures for 2010-11 will be published in October 2011 as part of the 'Nature of Crime' tables to be released alongside the October Crime in England and Wales Quarterly Update bulletin.

Copies of the full crime statistics reports have been placed in the House Libraries.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each local authority area for offences of the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 since 2003. [68943]

James Brokenshire: Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for the sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18, by police force area in England and Wales from 2003 to 2010 can be viewed in the table.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by local authority area.

Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for the sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-10[2,3]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[4]	2009	2010
Avon and Somerset	2	—	14	5	1	6	9	10
Bedfordshire	2	7	10	24	2	—	1	4
Cambridgeshire	—	4	9	27	10	8	—	—
Cheshire	16	20	8	6	6	9	4	6
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cleveland	4	10	14	11	13	10	6	3
Cumbria	1	1	8	1	1	4	—	1
Derbyshire	37	22	13	8	7	17	20	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	12	8	6	5	1	—	1
Dorset	9	10	35	7	2	3	5	1
Durham	—	2	2	—	3	7	1	19
Essex	7	2	8	16	14	4	5	1
Gloucestershire	—	1	5	10	3	10	1	—
Greater Manchester	129	180	117	160	35	39	30	32
Hampshire	—	9	11	2	4	9	8	5
Hertfordshire	1	8	3	40	24	2	3	3
Humberside	—	11	2	6	5	1	1	1
Kent	12	15	14	2	2	6	2	2
Lancashire	23	22	89	32	27	33	41	10
Leicestershire	15	10	27	45	55	9	8	8
Lincolnshire	17	4	11	10	3	6	3	7
Merseyside	42	19	16	34	28	24	19	5
Metropolitan Police	113	167	253	236	176	76	86	55
Norfolk	1	9	3	—	2	1	2	1
North Yorkshire	7	22	3	68	29	1	1	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	11	13	7	5	7	14
Northumbria	38	51	79	41	12	13	7	5
Nottinghamshire	9	—	11	37	5	7	6	4
South Yorkshire	—	5	18	10	9	4	8	11
Staffordshire	8	5	20	23	26	19	22	6
Suffolk	—	1	3	4	—	1	3	5
Surrey	4	10	13	18	5	8	1	3
Sussex	8	4	4	33	11	7	9	1
Thames Valley	6	23	15	36	20	2	8	9
Warwickshire	27	26	7	2	1	1	2	1
West Mercia	7	5	19	10	5	3	4	5
West Midlands	20	45	76	74	57	44	35	20
West Yorkshire	2	21	15	17	9	9	7	6
Wiltshire	6	10	23	10	6	1	—	2
Dyfed-Powys	5	24	6	18	13	4	1	2
Gwent	2	20	16	21	13	9	13	19
North Wales	7	5	10	4	8	11	3	10
South Wales	29	34	55	72	29	23	38	24

Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts for the sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-10[2,3]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[4]*	*2009*	*2010*
England and Wales	616	861	1,084	1,199	693	459	430	324

[1] Offences include:
Sale of alcohol to person under 13;
Persistently selling alcohol to children;
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises;
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18;
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places in Scotland were designated as a *(a)* supplying establishment, *(b)* breeding establishment and *(c)* scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as at the end of 2010. [67994]

Lynne Featherstone: As at 31 December 2010, there were 32 establishments in Scotland designated as scientific procedure establishments under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Of these, 13 were also designated as breeding establishments and 19 as supplying establishments.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out in Scotland in 2010. [67995]

Lynne Featherstone: The number of regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010 was 590,826.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many project licences were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2010; and how many such project licences were in force at the end of 2010 in respect of work to be carried out in Scotland. [67996]

Lynne Featherstone: In 2010, 515 project licences were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, of which 100 were held at designated establishments in Scotland. A total of 2,614 were in force at the end of 2010, of which 467 were in force in Scotland.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 have been performed in *(a)* public health laboratories, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* NHS hospitals, *(d)* Government Departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit-making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations in 2011 to date. [67997]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland the total number of procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 was 590,826. Of these, 469,481 or 79% were carried out at universities or medical schools, 33,325 or 6% at Government Departments, 46,556 or 8% at other public bodies, and 41,464 or 7% at commercial organisations. None were started at public health laboratories, NHS hospitals or non-profit making organisations.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out for *(a)* fundamental and applied studies other than toxicity and *(b)* toxicity tests or other safety and efficacy evaluation in 2010. [67998]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, the number of regulated procedures started for non-toxicological purposes under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 was 543,050 (92%), and the number started for toxicological purposes was 47,776 (8%).

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were recorded in Scotland in 2010; and how many such infringements resulted in a prosecution. [68042]

Lynne Featherstone: Four infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were reported at designated establishments in Scotland during 2010. No prosecutions resulted.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 carried out in Scotland were conducted without anaesthesia in 2010. [68043]

Lynne Featherstone: There were a total of 590,826 regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010 of which 414,528 (70%) used no form of anaesthesia.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 that were in force in Scotland were in *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity bandings as at the end of 2010. [68044]

Lynne Featherstone: In Scotland, 37% of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 that were in force at the end of 2010 were in a mild severity banding, 58% in moderate, 2% in substantial and 3% were in an unclassified severity banding.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* genetically-modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2010. [68045]

Lynne Featherstone: A total of 579,905 animals were used in regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010, of which 212,811 were genetically modified and 12,752 were animals with a harmful genetic defect.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* new world primates and *(p)* old world primates were used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2010. [68046]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, there were 323,740 mice, 36,890 rats, 1,091 guinea pigs, 755 hamsters, 1,683 rabbits, 27 horses and other equids, 4,706 sheep, 447 pigs, 12,750 birds, 817 amphibians, 193,543 fish, four cats, 442 dogs, 40 new world primates and 370 old world primates used in regulated procedures started under the 1986 Act. No reptiles were used.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual animals were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2010. [68047]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, there were 579,905 animals used in regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Asylum

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for removal from the Detained Fast Track procedure have been made since 2006; and what proportion were approved in each such year. [68578]

Damian Green: We are unable to provide accurate data relating to this question. It is open to detainees or their representatives to ask for release at any point during their detention. It is also open to detainees to apply to the courts for bail at any time in order that there is judicial oversight of the process. Many do so on multiple occasions and it is therefore not possible, to identify an accurate figure.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most frequent reasons for detainee removal from the Detained Fast Track programme was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [68581]

Damian Green: In the financial year 2010-11 the Detained Fast Track processes dealt with a total intake of 2,694 asylum seekers. A total of 820 detainees were released from the processes that were not granted asylum or removed from the UK. The most common reasons for those releases were:

1. pre decision appointments made by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture or the Helen Bamber Foundation resulting in release from detention: 150 detainees
2. detainees released who had failed in their asylum applications and in respect of whom the only barrier to removal from the United Kingdom was the lack of a travel document (which was not forthcoming from their country of origin): 126 releases
3. applicants granted bail by the courts: 81 detainees
4. Cases reclassified by the courts and released from Detained Fast Track: 75 detainees.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67566]

Damian Green: The Home Department did not subscribe to Sky TV in the period commencing May 2010 to date, and therefore no payments have been made.

Ministerial Meetings: News Corporation

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in her Department attended which were also attended by (A) representatives, (B) journalists and (C) other employees of (1) News International and its subsidiary organisations including newspapers, (2) News Corporation and its subsidiary organisations and (3) BSkyB since 12 May 2010. [66135]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements (i) Ministers and (ii) special advisers in her Department attended which were also attended by Mr Andrew Coulson (A) between 12 May 2010 and 21 January 2011 and (B) since 21 January 2011. [66134]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* As has been the practice of previous Administrations, information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 13 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 311-14.

Cannabis

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions for (i) possession and (ii) supply of cannabis in St Helens South and Whiston constituency there have been in each of the last five years. [69010]

James Brokenshire: Information reported to the Home Office on arrests is not broken down below offence group level, therefore it is not possible to identify specific offences from the 'drug offences' offence group.

The table, provided by the Ministry of Justice, shows the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply cannabis in Merseyside police force area, 2006 to 2010 (latest available).

Court proceedings data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply cannabis, Merseyside, 2006-10[1, 2, 3]

	2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*		*2010*	
Merseyside police force area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Possession cannabis	424	386	1,074	1,022	1,491	1,416	2,256	2,128	2,671	2,431
Possession with intent to supply cannabis	49	52	71	51	92	71	99	76	148	103
Supply cannabis	13	17	19	23	39	30	15	19	21	25

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Cannabis was re-classified to a class B drug on 26 January 2009.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings officials of her Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67344]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 203W.

Crime: Children

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on (i) child victims of crime and (ii) child criminals since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [66807]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has commissioned or undertaken the following research specifically concerning child victims of crime and child criminals since May 2010.

(i) Child victims

Since January 2009, the British Crime Survey (BCS) was extended to cover victimisation of children aged 10 to 15 years. Figures from the 2009-10 and 2010-11 surveys for this age group were published on 14 July 2011:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011

Earlier in 2011 the Home Office completed and published an assessment of phase 2 of the Tackling Knives and Serious Youth Violence Action programme, which ran from April 2009 to March 2010. The Programme aimed to reduce serious violence involving 13 to 24-year-olds, both as victims and offenders:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/horr53/

A review of the literature on routes of human trafficking (including of children) into the UK is currently being completed, with a view to being published later in the year.

(ii) Child criminals

In autumn 2010 the Home Office commissioned an evaluation of schemes based in police stations that assess young people who have been arrested and can, where appropriate, divert them into other interventions and services. Additionally, the Home Office is carrying out analysis to produce estimates of how much recorded crime is attributable to young people (aged 10 to 17). Both studies will be completed later this year.

Crime: Older People

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce fear of crime amongst the elderly population. [68809]

James Brokenshire: The proportions of adults worried about burglary, car crime and violent crime in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are at their lowest since questions on this were introduced into the British Crime Survey. Police forces, working with local partners, are responsible for tackling crime—including concerns of the local elderly population. The Government are freeing up the police from bureaucracy and red tape to do so. We have given the public the information they need about local crime through crime maps, and are introducing a national non-emergency police number (101) to enable the public to contact the police more easily. These developments, together with neighbourhood policing teams, beat meetings and, in due course, elected police and crime commissioners, will ensure all sections of the community (including the elderly) can hold their force to account.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that partnerships, groups and schemes, that are working to tackle crime and fear of crime for elderly residents in local communities are communicated effectively. [68811]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office works in partnership with the voluntary sector to tackle crime and fear of crime. One aspect of this approach is the Home Office's work with the voluntary sector to communicate effectively the schemes that are available to tackle crime and fear of crime for elderly residents in local communities.

The Home Office funded Age UK, working in partnership with the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network, Victim Support, and the home improvement agency sector, to run a project to reduce the fear of crime through the delivery of a training programme, earlier this year, to empower vulnerable elderly people to take the steps they need to keep themselves safe in their home and community. Age UK estimate that their message was communicated to more than 7,500 vulnerable people, and that over 5,500 of them took actions to improve their home or personal security. It is estimated that a further 6,000 people will be reached through the work of Victim Support.

Cybercrime

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of the prevent strategy to reducing the level of cyber-terrorism. [66175]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Prevent strategy is concerned with the threat posed by terrorists to radicalise and recruit people to their cause, including their use of the internet for these purposes and forms one part of the Government's overarching counter-terrorism strategy—Contest.

The Prevent strategy aims to mitigate the threat of terrorist use of the internet by restricting access to unlawful online content in specific premises, such as schools, public libraries and other public buildings; and ensuring that action is taken to try to remove unlawful content from the internet. The legal framework for this is provided by sections 1 and 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (TACT).

The Prevent strategy also calls on the public to assist in reducing the level of terrorist content on the internet. Members of the public who encounter terrorist or extremist content online are able to anonymously refer it to the Metropolitan police's Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU). If the content breaches TACT, the CTIRU act to remove the content and where possible they mount prosecutions.

Encampment: Parliament Square

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take to assist in the removal of tents in Parliament Square; what recent representations she has received on this issue; from whom; what response was given; and if she will make a statement; [68141]

(2) how many complaints have been received by her Department about the encampment in Parliament Square in each of the last 12 months; from whom; and if she will make a statement; [68442]

(3) if she will require a report from the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis about the encampment in Parliament Square; how many persons have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* prosecuted for any offences connected with the encampment in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [68443]

Nick Herbert: The Government have brought forward measures in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to assist in the removal of tents on Parliament Square. The Government have liaised with a number of agencies including the Westminster City Council, the Greater London Authority and the Metropolitan Police Service on the issue of Parliament Square and the measurements in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

The Home Office has received regular correspondence from MPs, peers and the public expressing a range of views on Parliament Square. The Home Office does not collect data on persons arrested or prosecuted for any offences connected with the encampment on Parliament Square and there are no plans to commission a report from the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Advertising

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms between May 2005 and May 2006; and what the total cost to the public purse was. [68379]

Damian Green: The following table outlines Home Office and its Executive agencies' spend on advertising in *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* newspapers for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The question relates to advertising spend for the period May 2005 to May 2006 however costs are charged on a financial yearly basis and as a result cannot be split for the period May 2005 to May 2006 without incurring disproportionate cost.

		£
	2005-06	*2006-07*
TV	4,133,914	5,412,325
Radio	1,824,869	3,045,302
Newspapers	1,575,738	1,771,686
Total	7,534,521	10,229,313

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what occasions she has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67917]

Damian Green: For greater transparency all information relating to ministerial travel is published on a quarterly basis including purpose and cost.

I refer the hon. Member to:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

All travel undertaken by Home Office Ministers is compliant with s10 of the 'Ministerial Code' which stipulates that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Departmental Billing

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many late payments her Department has made to contractors between May 2005 and May 2006; and what the total cost to the public purse was of any *(a)* penalty charges or *(b)* interest charges incurred in that period. [68323]

Damian Green: For the period between May 2005 and May 2006 the Home Department, inclusive of its executive agencies, made 28,554 late payments but did not incur any payment penalties or interest charges for late payments to contractors.

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in her Department. [57122]

Damian Green: Charitable giving is strongly encouraged within the Home Office and across Government as a whole. This is demonstrated by all Government Ministers making a pledge to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers across Government to give their time to help others. This pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations. The Government's proposals to make it easier and more attractive to give time and money to good causes are outlined in the 'Giving White Paper' which was published in May 2011.

Furthermore, the Home Office encourages staff to actively engage in charitable giving by providing the opportunity to take five days special leave per year to volunteer at an organisation of their choice.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many senior civil servants in her Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements her Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised her Department in each such year. [68952]

Damian Green: Information relating to the number of senior civil servants who have worked for the four companies in question in the last four years is not held centrally by the Home Department, inclusive of its Executive Agencies, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on each consultancy agreement the Home Department has with these firms for the last four years could be collated only at disproportionate cost. The total value of agreements with these firms in each of the last four years can be found in the following table:

£

	Financial year			
Supplier	*2010-11*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	147,843	274,818	983,561	2,526,561
Ernst & Young	26,609,058	38,605,862	16,461,863	2,876,880
Deloitte	7,021,961	22,852,700	22,267,626	10,526,636
KPMG	8,174,750	18,238,547	16,612,225	5,975,926

The Home Department procures consultancy as a service rather than appointing individuals. We therefore do not capture the number of consultants who have advised the Department in the last four years.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by her Department between May 2005 and May 2006; and what the cost to the public purse was in (i) cash and (ii) real terms of such appointments. [68327]

Damian Green: Information on special advisers has been published annually in written ministerial statements since 2003. These statements are published in July of each year. The statements document details of advisers in post at the given date but costs refer to the previous financial year and before 2009-10 were estimated costs.

Details of special advisers between May 2005 and May 2006 were published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 156WS, and costs were published on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 91WS.

The information in the following table provides the number and cost of press officers employed by the Home Office and its agencies for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years.

Figures are recorded by financial year and cannot be split to give costs between May 2005 and May 2006.

Financial year	*Number of press officers*	*Cost of press officers (£)*
2005-06	34	1,616,410
2006-07	35	1,699,087

Mobile Phones

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile telephones and BlackBerrys were provided to staff in her Department between May 2005 and May 2006; and what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* line rental, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* the purchase of such telecommunications equipment. [68321]

Damian Green: During the period May 2005 and May 2006, 4,181 mobile telephones and BlackBerrys were provided to staff in the Home Department. Details of *(a)* line rental, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* telecommunications equipment are listed in the following table:

Area	*Number of mobile telephones and BlackBerrys provided*	*(a) Line rental (£)*	*(b) Insurance (£)*	*(c) Telecommunications equipment (£)*
HO HQ and UKBA	4,080	18,240	Nil	11,920
IPS	[1]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
CRB	101	4,188.44	Nil	Nil

[1] IPS has never provided staff with BlackBerrys. Active mobile phone account information records only go back one year and one month. The information required to respond to this question is only held in hard copy so we would reach the disproportionate cost threshold in order to provide information on mobile phones.

[2] Information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department was of the provision of Ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* Ministerial car journeys were paid for by her Department in each such year; what the average cost to her Department of a Ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps her Department has taken to reduce the cost of Ministerial cars since her appointment. [63001]

Damian Green: All information relating to the provision of ministerial car travel is published on an annual basis by the Department for Transport in a written ministerial statement, the details of which can be found in the Libraries of both Houses. In terms of reducing costs; Home Office Ministers no longer have an allocated driver and have to use the 'Ministerial Car Pool' which is compliant with Section 10 of the Ministerial Code. The exception being the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), who is driven by the Metropolitan Police for security purposes.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* cars leased by her Department to staff and *(b)* Ministerial chauffeurs between May 2005 and May 2006. [68383]

Damian Green: The Home Office accounting system is the principal record of Home Office financial data. This does not record details of vehicle leasing to the level required to answer this question.

Although the Home Office accounting system does not disaggregate the cost of ministerial chauffeurs from other car hire costs, the full costs of Home Office ministerial cars to the public purse are published at:

www.publications.parliament.uk

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many procurement contracts her Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67233]

Damian Green: The Home Department, inclusive of executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), does not capture this information and therefore detail could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Spend with small and medium enterprises totals £231 million since May 2010.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of procurement contracts offered by her Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67234]

Damian Green: The Contracts Finder website went live on September 2010. Since this time 18% of the Home Department's procurement contracts have been published on this facility. The remaining contracts awarded fell outside the website's criteria.

Rail Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* first class and *(b)* all train travel by (i) Ministers, (ii) staff and (iii) special advisers in her Department between May 2005 and May 2006. [68340]

Damian Green: The Home Office accounting system is the principal record of Home Office financial data. This does not record expenditure on train travel to the level of detail required to answer this question. A full answer to the question could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* she and *(b)* officials of her Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67186]

Damian Green: There is no requirement for the Department to hold details of the number of meetings declined and there are no plans to do so.

Stationery

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost to the public purse was of stationery purchased by her Department between May 2005 and May 2006. [68387]

Damian Green: The Home Department and its Executive Agencies spent £2.8 million on general administrative stationery between May 2005 and May 2006.

Departmental Training

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location, *(c)* number of attendees and *(d)* cost to the public purse was for each (i) awayday and (ii) team building activity organised for staff in her Department between May 2005 and May 2006. [68333]

Damian Green: Details of staff awaydays and team building activities are not held in a central location within the Home Office.

The Home Office accounting system is the principal record of Home Office financial data. This does not record expenditure on staff awaydays to the level of detail required to answer this question. A full answer to the question could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

All expenditure on awaydays is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Official Overseas Visits

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* special advisers in her Department between May 2005 and May 2006; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit. [68357]

Damian Green: The Home Office accounting system is the principal record of Home Office financial data. This does not record expenditure on overseas travel to the level of detail required to answer this question. A full answer to the question could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals in the UK she is unable to deport on human rights grounds; and how many such people have committed offences while resident in the UK. [63854]

Damian Green: Information about the number of foreign nationals that the UK Border Agency is unable to remove from the UK on human rights grounds is not readily available on our electronic system and could be obtained only by reviewing individual cases. Many factors will be taken into account when consideration is given as to whether an individual should be allowed to remain in the UK, including the immigration rules, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Human Rights Act. These often 'overlap' and are not mutually exclusive. An individual may be granted permission to stay for reasons relating to more than one of these provisions.

Reflecting and recording all possible and multiple reasons in a static field is therefore very challenging. This would incur a disproportionate cost. Without this information we are unable to provide information on how many of the individuals have committed criminal offences while in the UK.

Deportation: EU Nationals

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of each EU member state the UK Border Agency has removed in each of the last four years. [68024]

Damian Green: The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntary departures from the UK of European Union nationals from 2007 to 2010.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Removals and voluntary departures[1, 2, 3] from the UK for nationals of the European Union, 2007-10

			Number of departures[4]	
	2007	*2008*	*2009[5]*	*2010[5]*
Austria	10	5	5	5
Belgium	40	40	30	20
Bulgaria	25	20	35	50
Cyprus	10	5	[6]—	5
Czech Republic	15	40	45	40
Denmark	5	5	10	5
Estonia	5	5	5	10
Finland	[7]—	5	5	[6]—
France	110	100	90	110
Germany	85	90	80	55
Greece	10	10	5	10
Hungary	10	15	20	30
Ireland	35	10	10	10
Italy	70	55	40	35
Latvia	35	20	40	55
Lithuania	80	100	125	180
Luxembourg	[7]—	[6]—	[7]—	[7]—
Malta	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Netherlands	165	130	100	100
Poland	80	135	180	270
Portugal	65	70	95	85
Romania	200	185	245	315
Slovakia	25	25	25	40
Slovenia	5	[6]—	5	5
Spain	30	20	20	25
Sweden	15	20	20	25
Total EU nationals	1,135	1,120	1,225	1,480

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Figures include dependants.

[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[5] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[6] = 1 or 2.

[7] = 0.

Forensic Science

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces have specialist forensic provision for the investigation of computer hard drives. [68635]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not hold this information and there has not been a national survey to establish this at this time. The National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) are working with five police forces in the East Midlands to look at good practice in this area, all of these five forces have a specialist unit of this nature.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on how many private sector forensic science providers are able to provide services using DART-MS instrumentation. [68636]

Lynne Featherstone: The use of Direct Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry (DART-MS) is not stipulated in any of the work packages of the National Forensic Framework Agreement and as such this information is not held.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which forensic science laboratories have ISO 17025 accreditation. [68637]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not collect or maintain information on the accreditation held by all forensic science laboratories. Information on which laboratories have ISO 17025 accreditation is available from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) website at:

www.ukas.com/about-accreditation/accredited-bodies/Testing-laboratories-schedules.asp

Therefore, the Secretary of State for the Home Department does not intend to publish this information.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces had forensic science laboratories *(a)* with and *(b)* without ISO 17025 accreditation on the latest date for which figures are available. [68638]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not collect or maintain detailed records, as all forces have some laboratory functions.

The Forensic Science Regulator has informed the Department that as of 25 July 2011, five Home Office police forces have gained ISO 17025 accreditation for specific activities for some of their laboratories. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with the Forensic Science Regulator to roll out a project for Home Office police fingerprint enhancement laboratories to achieve ISO 17025 accreditation by November 2015, which is in line with the EU Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forensic science laboratories have ISO 17025 accreditation for *(a)* specialist methods for investigating sexual offences, *(b)* forensic toxicology, *(c)* forensic fire investigation, *(d)* crime scene investigation and *(e)* forensic analysis of gunshot residue. [68639]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not collect or maintain information on the range of accreditation held by forensic science laboratories accredited to ISO 17025. Forensic science laboratories scope of accreditation is available from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) website at:

www.ukas.com/about-accreditation/accredited-bodies/Testing-laboratories-schedules.asp

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for ISO 17025 accreditation she has received from forensic science laboratories in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011 to date; and how many such applications were successful. [68641]

Lynne Featherstone: Neither the Secretary of State, nor the Home Office receives applications for accreditation to ISO 17025.

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national accreditation body and is responsible for receiving applications and awarding accreditation to ISO 17025.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forensic laboratories have ISO 17025 accreditation. [68660]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not collect or maintain information on the number of forensic science laboratories that have ISO 17025 accreditation. Information on forensic science laboratories accredited to ISO 17025 is available from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) website at:

www.ukas.com/about-accreditation/accredited-bodies/Testing-laboratories-schedules.asp

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of maintaining the Forensic Science Service's archive following the closure of that body. [68661]

Lynne Featherstone: The Forensics Transition Board has set up an Archiving Project Board with members from Home Office, Forensic Science Service (FSS), the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and key partners across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to recommend options for the handling and retention of FSS records so that historical data remains available to the CJS. As part of this process we will also seek to ensure the necessary expertise exists to mine that data. The Board is considering a number of options for the future of the archives and will ensure that the chosen solution provides best value for money for the taxpayer.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of the Forensic Science Service archive; and if she will make a statement. [68662]

Lynne Featherstone: We recognise the importance of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) archives, both in academic terms and in the investigation of the re-opened cases (or "cold cases" as they are sometimes called). We also recognise the need for the FSS archive material to be made available to the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in a joined-up way. The Forensics Transition Board has set up an Archiving Project Board with members from Home Office, FSS, the Association of Chief Police

Officers (ACPO) and key partners across the CJS to recommend options for the handling and retention of FSS records so that historical data remains available to the CJS. As part of this process we will also seek to ensure the necessary expertise exists to mine that data.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* powers and *(b)* funding will be transferred to the Forensic Science Service Regulator following the closure of the Forensic Science Service. [68663]

Lynne Featherstone: The Forensic Science Regulator has received support and cooperation for his quality standards from the laboratories, professional bodies, prosecuting authorities, the judiciary and the Association of Chief Police Officers, and to date has not been hindered in dealing with any complaints about quality standards. This position will be kept under review and the creation of powers will be considered if that is appropriate. At present there are no plans to transfer any additional funding to the Forensic Science Regulator.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on how many private forensic service providers had ISO 17025 accreditation for IT forensic techniques on the latest date for which figures are available. [68748]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not collect or maintain information on private forensic science providers that have ISO 17025 accreditation in this area. Information on organisations with this scope of accreditation is available from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) website at:

www.ukas.org

General Register Office: Fees and Charges

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the appropriateness of the General Register Office's charges for accessing birth, marriage and death certificates on-line. [68261]

Damian Green: The Public Expenditure and Receipts Act 1968 requires the General Register Office for England and Wales to provide certified copies of certificates on a self-financing basis. A review of certificate fees is carried out on a regular basis to comply with the 1968 Act and the last review was conducted in 2010. The outcome of the review led to a revised fee structure being introduced on 6 April 2010.

The revised fee structure was calculated through use of a full cost recovery model agreed with HM Treasury and in line with the principles and guidance to ensure full recovery of costs. Certificate fees were set to a standard fee of £9.25 and a priority fee of £23.40. This provides a much simpler approach for customers and a more efficient charging process.

Government Procurement Card

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Government Procurement Cards were used by staff of her Department between May 2005 and May 2006; and what the *(a)* name of the supplier, *(b)* date and *(c)* value was of each transaction during this period. [68351]

Damian Green: Details of Government Procurement Cards used by staff of the Home Department between May 2005 and May 2006; inclusive of *(a)* name of the supplier, *(b)* date and *(c)* value was of each transaction during this period can be obtained only at disproportionate cost due to manually redacting sensitive information.

We are currently working to provide a consistent method of reporting Government Procurement Card spend data for transactions over £500 in value dating from 1 April 2011. We expect this information to be available on our departmental website later this year.

Hillsborough Independent Panel: Expenditure

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Hillsborough Independent Panel spent in each category of expenditure as at the end of financial year 2010-11; and what its budget for 2011-12 is in each category of expenditure. [68451]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is given in the following table:

Hillsborough Independent Panel costs 2010-11

Categories of expenditure	*Expenditure (£)*
Home Office staff pay	554,374
Travel, subsistence, office costs, training	75,451
Research costs	40,000
Panel fees, travel and subsistence	50,215
IT and programme management	960,295
Funding for document disclosure review by donating organisations	389,015
Total	2,069,350

The categories of expenditure for the panel's budget for 2011-12 are currently under review as the panel finalises its delivery plans for the year.

Hospitals: Disclosure of Information

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the adequacy of the police investigation into the activities commissioned by *The Sunday Times* of the freelance journalist Mr Brian Deer in relation to the acquisition of children's medical records and information from *(a)* the Royal Free Hospital and *(b)* other sources between 2003 and 2005. [68013]

Nick Herbert: Criminal investigations are operational matters for individual police forces.

Hotels

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* four star, *(b)* five star and *(c)* other hotel accommodation for (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in her Department between May 2005 and May 2006. [68372]

Damian Green: The Home Office accounting system is the principal record of Home Office financial data. This does not record expenditure on hotels to the level of detail required to answer this question. A full answer to the question could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants are required to report to immigration reporting centres. [64303]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency uses 15 reporting centres located across the UK and police stations to maintain contact with individuals who may have either breached immigration law or are awaiting a decision on their asylum application.

As of 13 July 2011, the number of individuals required to report to immigration reporting centres and designated police stations was 56,197[1]. This data relates to those required to report between 1 April to 30 June 2011.

Frequency of reporting will vary from individual to individual, and is set on a case specific basis.

[1] All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigration Controls: London Airports

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many days the UK Border Agency did not meet the required passport control queue time of 45 minutes or less at *(a)* each Heathrow airport terminal, *(b)* Gatwick airport and *(c)* Stansted airport in the last six months for which figures are available. [68063]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's target is to clear 95% of non EEA passengers within 45 minutes. The measurement of this target is based on a sampling methodology. Queues are sampled on a daily basis at different times of the day. The figures below show that in over 95% of the samples the UK Border Agency met its target.

Non-EEA passenger queue waiting times: Total number of instances where 45 minute queuing target was exceeded, 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011

Port	Total number of queues exceeding 45 minute target	Total number of measures
Gatwick North	18	4,344
Gatwick South	72	4,248
Heathrow TN1	43	3,439
Heathrow TN3	255	3,404
Heathrow TN4	434	3,204
Heathrow TN5	162	3,214
Stansted	66	637
Total	1,050	22,490

Immigration: Detainees

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost to the public purse was of transferring detainees between immigration removal centres and other immigration detention facilities in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [68579]

(2) what the most frequent reason for the transfer of detainees between immigration removal centres and other immigration detention facilities was in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [68580]

(3) how many detainees have been transferred between immigration removal centres and other immigration detention facilities in each year since 2006. [68599]

Damian Green: The escorting contract provides the transfer of detainees both within the UK and overseas and the management of both residential and non-residential short-term holding facilities around the country. It was held by G4S Care and Justice Services Ltd until 30 April with the use of alternative suppliers to meet peaks in demand for the service. All Services transferred to Reliance at midnight on 30 April.

Prior to 30 April, the UK Border Agency paid a fixed fee for most elements of the escorting contract. We do not therefore hold sufficiently detailed information which demonstrates the cost of transferring detainees between places of detention. Although the agency now pays for each individual journey undertaken, it would be at disproportionate cost to examine individual invoices to provide the information since the contract changed.

Around 80,000 journeys were undertaken in the year ending 30 April. These include transferring detainees from police stations, prisons and other places of detention into immigration removal centres, taking them to ports and airports for removal, to hospitals for medical appointments, courts for appeal hearings and embassies for documentation interviews. It also includes the transfer of detainees between different immigration removal centres.

The UK Border Agency keeps the number of transfers to a minimum, but inevitably detainees are sometimes moved for operational reasons. These include where their behaviour requires them to be held in a more secure environment, because they are required for an interview at a particular centre, or because they are being moved close to an airport for their removal from the UK.

John Hagee

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on statements made by Pastor John Hagee; and if she will make a statement. [65391]

Damian Green: The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases.

The Secretary of State has the power to exclude or deport individuals whose conduct she considers non-conducive to the public good.

Liberal Democrat Conference

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requests her Department has received from South Yorkshire Police Authority for reimbursement of costs associated with the policing of the Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in Sheffield in March 2011; what response her Department gave; and what factors determined her response. [69130]

Nick Herbert: An application for a special grant was received from South Yorkshire police to cover the costs of policing the 2011 Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in Sheffield. The application was considered by Home Office Ministers but was declined.

General guidance to forces on special grant sets out broad criteria against which applications will be assessed. These include evidence that the additional expenditure would otherwise create a serious threat to the authority's financial stability and/or where the costs incurred exceed a minimum of 1% of the force annual budget. This, however, is only guidance for forces and does not fetter the power of Ministers to make or decline to make grants in these or other circumstances.

Mass Media

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost to the public purse was of her Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month between May 2005 and May 2006. [68367]

Damian Green: In the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years the Home Office Communication Directorate spent the following amounts on media evaluations:

	£
2005-06	247,177.71
2006-07	264,554.78

Costs are charged on a financial yearly basis and as a result cannot be split to give costs between May 2005 and May 2006.

Members: Correspondence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Immigration plans to respond to the communication from the right hon. Member for Leicester East of 9 April 2001 on case reference S102005. [66076]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency was unable to trace a copy of the correspondence. However a letter dated 9 April 2011 was obtained from your office and will be responded to as soon as possible.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend of 18 April 2011, reference MM/JH/14/04/2011. [68531]

Damian Green: I wrote to the hon. Member on 21 July 2011

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters her Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68755]

Damian Green: In June 2011, Home Office headquarters received centrally 744 letters from hon. and right hon. Members and noble Lords to Ministers for the Home Department to answer. This includes 62 letters received by the Government Equalities Office. (The Department receives some correspondence that is for other Departments of State to answer, which it sends on). The UK Border Agency received 3,172 letters from hon. and right hon. Members and noble Lords to Ministers, the agency chief executive and officials in June 2011. To distinguish between letters from hon. and right hon. Members, and those from noble Lords would attract a disproportionate cost.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 14 June 2011 regarding Mr D Thambo. [68912]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 26 July 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 13 June 2011 regarding Mr C I Kachitsa. [68913]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 26 July 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to answer the letter to the Minister for Immigration from the Rt. hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 13 June 2011 regarding Ms S Maphosa; [68914]

(2) when she plans to answer the letter from the Rt. hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 13 June 2011 regarding Mr K Ahmed. [68916]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 26 July 2011.

Metal Theft

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to prohibit payments in cash for large supplies of scrap metal. [68078]

James Brokenshire: The Government are currently considering a range of options to deal with the growing and random problem of metal theft, including a cashless model for payments for scrap metal.

News International

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met *(a)* James Murdoch, *(b)* Rebekah Brooks and *(c)* Andy Coulson. [67365]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to publishing details of meetings with newspapers and other media proprietors, editors and senior executives. This information can be found at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

Telephone Hacking

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the effects of media telephone hacking on *(a)* public figures and *(b)* victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland. [66976]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* My right hon. Friend has made no such assessment. Lord Justice Leveson's judicial inquiry will have broad terms of reference; it will be for him to consider whether such issues will be within the scope of the inquiry.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police officers were sentenced to custodial sentences in November 2005 for the sale of information to newspapers; and to which newspapers. [68647]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences involving the sale of information in respect of sales to (i) the *News of the World*, (ii) *The Sun*, (iii) freelance journalists and (iv) other media outlets since 2003. [68667]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

North Yorkshire Police Authority: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department allocated to North Yorkshire Police Authority in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* each year since then; and how much it plans to allocate in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in (A) 2012-13 and (B) 2013-14. [65929]

James Brokenshire: The following table shows the amount of core Government funding allocated to North Yorkshire Police Authority in 2005-06 and the subsequent years.

Financial year	*Allocated amount (£ million)*
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	49.0
2007-08	50.6
2008-09	52.0
2009-10	53.4
2010-11	53.8
2011-12	50.6
2012-13	[1]47.3
	[2]46.1
2013-14	[1]46.6
	[2]44.3

[1] Cash
[2] Real

Although the vast majority of funding to the police comes from the Home Office and from the Department for Communities and Local Government in England and the Welsh Government in Wales, they also receive funding from the police precept component of council tax precept. In addition, police forces generate a small amount of income for example from charging for service they offer such as the policing of football matches.

Offenders: Deportation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much it cost *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita to deport foreign national offender criminals in each of the last five years. [67141]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not have readily available data on total and individual costs of deporting foreign national offenders for the period requested. There are many different factors involved in the cost of a case.

The UK Border Agency intends to publish unit costs of deportations on a full cost basis in its 2011-12 departmental annual report next year.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals with convictions for *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape, *(c)* other sexual offences and *(d)* violent offences have not been removed on human rights grounds in the last year for which figures are available. [69108]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of foreign nationals convicted of *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape, *(c)* other sexual offences and *(d)* violent offences in the UK who were not removed on human rights grounds in 2010 (calendar year). Please note this data is internal management information.

Offence type	*Number*
Murder	2
Rape	7
Other sexual offences	13
Violent offences	66

Offenders: EU Nationals

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals were convicted of a criminal offence following transfer to the UK from another EU member state in each year since 2000. [67358]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The Government do not centrally collate information relating to the nationality of offenders in the UK and we are therefore unable to provide the full extent of the information requested. However, from 2006 the United Kingdom Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records has taken on responsibility for notifying EU countries when a national of that member state is convicted of an offence in the UK. Information has therefore been collated from 2007 and the total number of notifications of EU nationals is as follows:

	Number
2007	10,736
2008	24,635
2009	27,470
2010	27,563
2011[1]	19,164

[1] As of 2 August 2011.

Official Hospitality

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on hospitality since 12 May 2010. [67989]

Damian Green: Expenditure (rounded to the nearest hundred pounds) for Home Office and the UK Border Agency, since May 2010, is as follows:

Home Office (core Department) to end June 2011: £10,900

UK Border Agency to end June 2011: £62,600.

Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which itself complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment to non-civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) uses a different accounting system to that used by the core Home Office. As a result, IPS does not record hospitality in line with the definition above. IPS does not routinely arrange promotional events for non-civil servants so expenditure for the period will be low. To accurately identify relevant expenditure would incur disproportionate cost as it is not explicitly recorded as relating to non-civil servants.

The Criminal Records Bureau allocates hospitality spend to an account code which encompasses other spend categories. To accurately identify relevant expenditure would incur disproportionate cost, as it is not separately recorded.

Organised Crime: Deportation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were removed by the UK Border Agency following a request from the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since 2006. [63718]

Damian Green: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) routinely monitors any case where a judge recommends a deportation at end of sentence, or where an individual will automatically be considered for deportation by the UK Border Agency by virtue of their length of sentence.

Additionally since 1 April 2006 SOCA has referred 14 names to the UK Border Agency to be considered for removal from the UK. In terms of these: five have been progressed for possible removal; four are pending action; three individuals were identified as having left the UK; and two were judged by the UK Border Agency as requiring no further action. To date no individuals have been removed as a result of the 14 recommendations by SOCA.

Police Custody

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to update her Department's 2006 guidance on Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody. [68064]

Nick Herbert: The 2006 Safer Detention Guidance was published on behalf of both the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers. Work is ongoing to produce a revised version of the guidance and we hope to publish it later this year.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what minimum standards her Department sets for police custody cells; and if she will make a statement. [68065]

Nick Herbert: The provision and maintenance of police custody accommodation is a matter for the chief constable and the police authority. Codes of practice in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act set out the requirements for the detention of suspects in police custody. Code C.8 requires cells to be adequately heated, cleaned, ventilated and lit; and that access to toilet and washing facilities must be provided. The Home Office Police Buildings Design Guide provides advice to forces on how custody suites might be constructed or adapted to comply with the legal requirements of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Best practice advice on cell design detail is also issued via the joint ACPO/Home Office/NPIA 'Guidance on the safer detention and handling of persons in police custody' document.

Police Station Closures

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on police forces who are encouraging members of the public to staff police stations at risk of closure; and if she will make a statement. [68783]

Nick Herbert: This information is not collected centrally.

Police volunteers have, for years, provided valuable support to police forces across the country, and help to link the police to their local communities. Irrespective of any other changes in a force's work force, we should celebrate the fact that people choose to support their local communities in this way.

Police: Complaints

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer by the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for York Central of 20 July 2011, in how many cases the Independent Police Complaints Authority has *(a)* had referred to it, *(b)* investigated and *(c)* upheld in full or in part a complaint made against the police since its establishment; and how many such cases resulted in (i) police disciplinary action, (ii) dismissal of a police officer or employee, (iii) criminal charges against a police officer or employee and (iv) conviction of a police officer or employee for (A) bribery or corruption and (B) other offences. [68884]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held by the Home Office. Some of this information is held by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Police: Housing

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* central Government Departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies have provided accommodation for the use of police officers and staff in the last five years; how many properties were provided for such purposes; and at what cost to the public purse. [59324]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not collect data from across the Government and public sector on provision of accommodation for police officers and staff.

Police: Indemnity Insurance

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will take steps to ensure that police officers who respond to *(a)* chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and *(b)* other hazardous incidents are afforded similar indemnity insurance cover to fire and rescue personnel who respond to similar incidents; [66705]

(2) if she will assess the merits of a national indemnity insurance scheme for police officers who respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents. [66717]

Nick Herbert: The health and safety of police officers and the provision of indemnity insurance are matters for individual chief officers. The Home Office has no plans to introduce a national indemnity insurance scheme for police officers who respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.

Police: Mobile Homes

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislative proposals to enable police to patrol park home sites situated on private property at any time, regardless of whether the owner has given permission. [59972]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* We have no plans to do so.

Police: Overtime

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours of overtime were paid to police officers in each police authority in England in each of the last five years. [68077]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Pensions

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the entitlement of police officers who have accrued pension rights to draw a tax-free lump sum. [68049]

Nick Herbert: There are two pension schemes that apply to police officers. The police pension scheme 1987 does not provide an automatic lump sum on retirement, but allows officers to exchange up to a quarter of their pension for a lump sum. The police pension scheme 2006 provides a lump sum of up to twice the officer's salary on retirement. Lord Hutton's report on public service pensions recommends that all pension rights accrued to date should be protected. The Government have committed to protecting accrued rights built up under present pension arrangements.

Police pension lump sums are paid in accordance with the current tax regime.

Police: Recruitment

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that people are not prevented from becoming police officers as a consequence of being required to financially support themselves during the time it takes to become fully-qualified uniformed police officers; and if she will make a statement. [67349]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The requirements to train to become a police officer do not routinely require student officers to support themselves through training, as the majority of police forces still offer a mix of opportunities fully funded in house training, fully funded in higher education or through pre join arrangements funded by the student.

Steps are being taken to encourage and provide opportunities for those wishing to become police officers to achieve part of the minimum qualification (the Diploma in Policing) prior to recruitment. Prospective students who have not been recruited as either a student police officer or as a special constable will, however, only be able to complete part of the minimum qualification as the full qualification requires the student officer to be assessed in the work place using police powers. Special constables who are volunteers have police powers and will be able to train and complete the full work based assessment.

Steps are being taken to constrain the cost of pre join police training by:

offering part time arrangements to enable continuing employment;

use of vocational qualifications which are at a lower cost than higher education as the minimum requirement;

the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), as the executive arm of the Central Authority for the Initial Policing Learning Programme, has provided the curriculum, learning resources, assessment guidance and e Learning, to police forces at no charge to the force or recruited candidates, and will offer these under license for a small cost to external providers so that the costs passed on to students should be as low as possible. The NPIA hopes to be able to continue to provide this service; and,

police forces are looking at the affordability of bursaries, loans and recompense of costs to successful candidates.

The NPIA, working with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the 43 police forces in England and Wales, has developed an equality impact assessment (EIA) for the pre join training arrangements; forces will be required to complete an EIA for their local implementation. The purpose of the EIA is to help to keep under review the impact of the arrangements on any potentially disadvantaged groups and to address any impact.

Police: Training

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what training police officers in England and Wales receive in the use of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-based violence risk model; [68264]

(2) whether any police force uses an alternative risk assessment model in place of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-based violence risk model; [68265]

(3) whether she plans to review the operation of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-based violence risk model in areas where it has been appropriately implemented; [68266]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effects of implementation of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-based violence risk model (DASH) on levels of victimisation in those areas where DASH has been fully implemented. [68267]

Lynne Featherstone: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Council accredited the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model to be implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009. Although we understand that the majority of forces currently use DASH, it is for individual forces to decide which risk assessment models to use and the training their officers and staff receive. However, ACPO continue to encourage forces to adopt DASH and HMIC inspections are carried out against DASH standards. Evidence from early adopter forces such as Sussex police suggests that the implementation of DASH has had a positive effect.

Police: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has met *(a)* Welsh Ministers and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the scrutiny of and support required by police commissioners in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [68696]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), and the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), discuss police reform issues when appropriate. I have had a number of discussions with Welsh Ministers and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Local Government and Communities on the implications of Police and Crime Commissioners for his devolved responsibilities.

Raed Salah

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she considered informing the hosts of Sheikh Raed Salah in the UK of the order to *(a)* exclude and *(b)* deport him. [64839]

Damian Green: Exclusion and deportation decisions are confidential to the individual concerned, and operationally sensitive, and it is not normal practice to inform others in a way which may breach confidentiality.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she had, and with whom, prior to the issue of the exclusion order against Sheikh Raed Salah; [64894]

(2) for what reason the exclusion order was issued against Sheikh Raed Salah; [64895]

(3) whether she took steps to ascertain the position of Sheikh Raed Salah in respect of anti-Semitic remarks attributed to him before issuing the exclusion order against him; [64896]

(4) whether she consulted *(a)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office before the action to exclude Sheikh Raed Salah was taken; [64897]

(5) on what date the exclusion order against Sheikh Raed Salah was issued. [64898]

Damian Green *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases but in this instance the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has considered it important to do so. Mr Salah has himself put details of his case into the public domain.

Raed Salah was excluded from the UK on 23 June as a result of numerous statements he had made, details of which were obtained from a variety of sources. Exclusion decisions are confidential to the individual concerned, and operationally sensitive, and it is not our practice to consult widely in making the decision or to inform others in a way which may breach that confidentiality. As is our normal practice in making these decisions, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were consulted as part of the evidence gathering process but the Prime Minister's Office were not. The exclusion was based on an assessment of whether Mr Salah had expressed views which fell within the scope of the Government's published unacceptable behaviours policy. The Secretary of State concluded that Mr Salah had made a number of statements that were considered to be unacceptable behaviour.

Rape: DNA

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the findings of the Independent Police Complaints Commission investigation into the response of the Metropolitan Police to a burglary linked to Operation Minstead. [61348]

James Brokenshire: The Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) investigation report into this case is available on the IPCC website. It found that Delroy Grant, a serial sex attacker, should have been arrested sooner. Following his conviction, the Metropolitan Police apologised for the missed opportunity that allowed him to continue to commit offences.

Clearly there are lessons to be learned from this shocking case which are matters for the Metropolitan Police and its Police Authority.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether officials of her Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67146]

Damian Green: Officials from the Home Office have discussions with officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, including the Rural Communities Policy Unit, as necessary to develop policy.

Officials also undertake equality impact assessments in order to assess the impact of Home Office policies on particular groups, including rural communities.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual budget for the Serious Organised Crime Agency was in each year since its inception. [62301]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The annual budget for the Serious Organised Crime Agency for each year was as follows:

	£
2006-07	426,403,970
2007-08	444,777,970
2008-09	474,634,970
2009-10	478,017,970
2010-11	462,839,000
2011-12	437,846,000

Stalking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the police in England and Wales routinely conduct a risk assessment when they receive a complaint from a victim of stalking and harassment; and whether that assessment is disclosed to the victim. [68252]

Lynne Featherstone: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Council accredited the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model to be implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009 as part of the police response to domestic abuse. Although the use of the DASH model is discretionary, the Home Office has worked with ACPO to encourage all forces to use it. DASH risk assessments are carried out in the presence of and with the knowledge of victims and are used by the police to provide a response tailored to the individual based on the answers provided.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plans to bring forward proposals to create an offence of cyber stalking in England and Wales. [68256]

Lynne Featherstone: The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 already covers cyber-stalking. The Act was always intended to tackle stalking, but was drafted so that it could also include any form of persistent conduct which causes alarm or distress. A specific "cyber-stalking" offence or reference to cyber-stalking in the existing offence is therefore not necessary. Where an offender pursues a course of conduct which amounts to harassment, and the offender knows or ought to know their conduct amounts to harassment, it does not matter whether the course of conduct was committed online or offline. As long as the elements of the offence are met, the offence can be charged.

Surveillance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to make available all the information gathered in the CIB3 bugging and surveillance operation codenamed Nigeria for use in the forthcoming public inquiry into media ethics. [67451]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The Home Office does not hold the information requested. It will be for Lord Justice Leveson to determine what information he wishes to consider as part of his independent inquiry.

Telephone Hacking

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the interception of voicemail by agencies for which she is responsible. [66233]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* Interception of communications, including voicemail, by a public authority can only take place with lawful authority. Interception has lawful authority if it takes place in accordance with a warrant issued by the Secretary of State. A warrant will only be issued if the Secretary of State believes the warrant is necessary in the interests of national security, for the purpose of detecting or preventing serious crime, or for the purpose of safeguarding the economic well-being of the United Kingdom, and the conduct authorised is proportionate to what is sought to be achieved by that conduct.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* voice, *(b)* email and *(c)* web interceptions were carried out by agencies for which she is responsible in each month of the year to June 2011. [66234]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* Under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 relevant security and law enforcement agencies may, in certain defined circumstances, intercept an individual's communications pursuant to an authorised warrant issued by a Secretary of State. The Home Secretary is responsible for issuing warrants on the application of the Security Service and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. In addition to the specific safeguards that apply in respect of the Warranty regime in Chapter 1, RIPA also sets out two important further sources of safeguards: a tribunal to investigate specific complaints; and an Interception of Communications Commissioner to oversee the operation of the system of interception as a whole. The only publicly available information on the number of intercept warrants issued is contained in the Commissioner's annual report. A link to the most recent report is at:

http://www.ipt-uk.com/docs/
Interception_of_Communications_2406.pdf

Terrorism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research into the proportion of *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* civil servants who understand the terror threat level alert system. [67859]

James Brokenshire: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 529W. The findings from the Government's Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU) research into the public's understanding of communications about a range of counter-terrorism policies and issues are currently being considered for publication.

The Government will continue to keep their approach to communicating the threat of terrorism to the public and security practitioners under review to ensure that it is effective.

Terrorist Organisations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of organisations which have declared that they oppose violence in the UK, but which support the use of violence abroad; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [66488]

Lynne Featherstone: Organisations that promote or encourage terrorism, whether in the UK or abroad, can be proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. We keep the list of proscribed organisations under constant review. Where there are extremist organisations that do not meet the statutory test for proscription the Government have made clear that no funding or other forms of support will be provided.

The Government will also address the challenge of such extremism, and particularly extremist organisations, through other means including the Government's new approach to promoting integration, which is led by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG); other parts of the criminal justice system (including through legislation regarding religious and racial hatred), debate and civil challenge.

Policy and programmes to deal with extremism and extremist organisations will be coordinated from DCLG. However the line between extremism and terrorism is not always precise. The relationship between terrorism and extremism is therefore complicated and directly relevant to the aim and objectives of Prevent, the part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy that aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent deals with extremism where terrorism draws on extremist ideas; and where people who are extremists are drawn towards terrorism-related activity.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of UK students who have been involved in terrorist attacks abroad in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [66487]

Alistair Burt: I have been asked to reply.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold statistics on the number of UK students who may have been involved as perpetrators in terrorist attacks overseas.

Theft

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many areas other than Birmingham, Quinton ward *(a)* the number of burglaries increased by 39.5 per cent. or more and *(b)* the number of robberies increased by 50 per cent. or more between 2010 and 2011. [68779]

James Brokenshire: Police recorded crime data at ward level are not collected centrally. Local area data are collected at basic command unit (BCU), community safety partnership (CSP) and local authority (LA) level.

UK Border Agency: Data Protection

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance her Department has issued to UK Border Agency offices on the application of data protection requirements to disclosure to hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents who are being held in detention; how many versions of such guidelines have been issued in each of the last five years; on what dates; and on what date the most recent guidance was issued; [67732]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the cost to the public purse of each change to data protection guidance for UK Border Agency offices relating to the disclosure of data to hon. Members acting on behalf of constituents who are being held in detention. [67794]

Damian Green: The Data Protection Act regulates the processing of personal data. Personal data means data that relate to a living individual regardless of their nationality, immigration status or where they are located in the world. The Agency's guidance is applicable to both in-country applications, overseas applications and to those who are in detention.

The current guidance was put in place in 2003 and has been updated as and when necessary since then, according to inquiries from colleagues across the Agency which have necessitated clarification. Amendments were also made as a result of the Freedom of Information Act in 2005 making reference to that Act and its provisions.

The Information Management Team recently produced an Information Fact Sheet for Members of Parliament acting on behalf of their constituents in response to feedback from Members of Parliament. The fact sheet sent to all Members on 14 July 2011 was produced to clarify our current guidance. The fact sheet sets out how we will approach requests for information from MPs in a number of common scenarios.

The Agency's guidance is publicly accessible via the UK Border Agency website—it is contained within Chapter 24 'Disclosure of Information' via the 'Policy & Law pages ('Immigration Directorate Instructions'). This guidance is currently being re-written to give Agency staff a clearer steer on data protection and disclosing information and also highlight the particular role and work of Members of Parliament when representing constituents.

We do not hold records for the number of versions there have been since 2003, although there have not been major alterations to it since its inception.

There has been no additional cost to the public purse, over and above the day-to-day operational costs of the UK Border Agency's Information Management Team who oversee Data Protection Policy guidance. The team updates guidance as part of their role and responds to inquiries on data protection policy from colleagues across the Agency on a day-to- day basis (including the Agency's MPs' Liaison Unit).

Vetting: Police

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will request the Association of Chief Police Officers to amend its National Vetting Policy for the Police Community to prohibit any person with a criminal record from being recruited into police forces in England and Wales. [68011]

Nick Herbert: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) provides vetting guidance to forces on recruitment into the police service. This sits alongside guidance issued by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in the form of NPIA Circular 02/2011—Eligibility Criteria for the role of police constable. These already outline a number of criminal convictions that will preclude an applicant from being recruited into to the police service. For other convictions forces may wish to decide locally if there are exceptional circumstances.

Responsibility and decisions with regard to vetting lie with the individual force and are made on an individual basis.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 806W, on Violent and Sex Offender Register, if she will review the legislation which prevents the public disclosure of sex offenders and their last known whereabouts where they have not fulfilled their obligations to register their address details and where their current whereabouts are unknown. [69106]

Lynne Featherstone: The Data Protection Act 1998 governs the handling of personal information. Public disclosure of details relating to sex offenders who are missing is considered by the police on a case by case basis and only made in accordance with obligations under this Act. There are currently no plans to review this legislation.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of persons on the Sex Offender Register have committed further offences in each of the last 10 years; and if she will provide a breakdown of the offences committed. [69107]

Lynne Featherstone: Data on the number of serious further offences alleged to have been committed by registered sex offenders were first included within the published Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual report for 2009-10.

This report may be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/mappa.htm

and in the Library of the House. The Statistics Bulletin for this report is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/mappa-stats-release.pdf

The MAPPA annual report for 2010-11 will be published on 27 October 2011.

CABINET OFFICE

Mortality Rates: Strokes

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mortality rates for stroke at *(a)* Darlington Memorial Hospital, *(b)* University Hospital North Durham and *(c)* James Cook University Hospital were in the latest period for which figures are available. [67979]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the mortality rates were for stroke at (a) Darlington Memorial Hospital, (b) University Hospital North Durham and (c) James Cook University Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. (67979)

The table provides the number of deaths, where stroke was the underlying cause of death, in (a) Darlington Memorial Hospital, (b) University Hospital North Durham and (c) James Cook University Hospital in 2010 (the latest year available).

It is not possible for ONS to calculate mortality rates for patients within" individual hospitals. Although the name and address of the hospital where the death occurred is recorded at registration there are no readily available data for the denominator populations.

Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMRs) are published annually by Dr Foster Health and are available at:

www.drfosterhealth.co.uk

In November 2010 the Department of Health published a national review of HSMRs which recommended the adoption of a new methodology for a national mortality ratio for use across the NHS, to be known as the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator[1]. The first results based on the new methodology are due to be published towards the end of 2011.

Figures for the number of deaths by place of occurrence, based on proportions of the total number of deaths registered in England and Wales (rather than the number of patients or residents within a specific establishment), are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?newquery=number+of+deaths+registered+each+year+by+sex%2C+age%2C+cause+and+place+of+death

Place of occurrence categories include for example hospitals, hospices and at home. Figures for individual hospital sites are not routinely produced.

[1] 'National review of the hospital standardised mortality ratio' (2010) The Department of Health. This report is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_121354

Table 1. Number of deaths where stroke was the underlying cause of death, by specified hospital, 2010[1,2,3]

Hospital	*Persons* *2010*
Darlington Memorial Hospital	87
University Hospital of North Durham	140
James Cook University Hospital	152

[1] Cause of death for stroke was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I60-I69 (cerebrovascular disease).
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in 2010.
[3] Figures for communal establishments are provisional until November 2011.

British Waterways: Public Bodies Bill

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings he has had with British Waterways on the Public Bodies Bill in the last 12 months; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes from any such meetings. [69070]

Mr Maude: I have not held any meetings with British Waterways in relation to the Public Bodies Bill in the last 12 months.

Business

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small and medium-sized business product surgeries have taken place in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England since their inception. [67260]

Mr Maude: To date one SME product surgery has been held in Birmingham and one London. At least six further product surgeries are being planned with Departments for later in the year, with venues yet to be confirmed.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new business start-ups there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in 2010. [69653]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Penneck, dated August 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new business start-ups there were in a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and b) the London Borough of Bexley in 2010. [69653]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. However, statistics for 2010 will not be available until December 2011. Below are the latest figures available which give enterprise births in the London Borough of Bexley as well as Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency for 2009.

	Enterprise births 2009
Bexley	720
Bexleyheath and Crayford	235

Central Office of Information

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the report which recommended the closure of the Central Office of Information. [67294]

Mr Maude: The recommendation to replace the COI was made by the former Permanent Secretary for Government Communication, Matt Tee, in his review of Government direct communications and the role of the COI. The report was published in March 2011. The Government response to the review was published in the form of a written ministerial statement on 23 June 2011.

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office who undertook the recent review of the Central Office of Information on his behalf. [67295]

Mr Maude: The Review of Government direct communication and the role of COI, published in March 2011, was undertaken by Matt Tee, the then Permanent Secretary for Government Communication. The Government response to this review was undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team in the Cabinet Office, and was overseen by Sir Gus O'Donnell and COI accounting officer Ian Watmore.

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what consultation he undertook with *(a)* Prospect and *(b)* other trade unions representing employees of the Central Office of Information before his statement on its proposed abolition. [67296]

Mr Maude: Informal discussions took place to advise the unions of the expected content of the recommendations of the Government's response to the Matt Tee Review, and following the announcement the Cabinet Office have now begun formal consultation with the unions.

Chief Coroner

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 26-28WS, what the outcome was of the application of the three tests for public bodies to the office of the Chief Coroner. [66137]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

In applying the three tests, the Government decided that most of the functions vested in the office of Chief Coroner are necessary. Consideration was also given as to whether establishing this new office would be the most efficient way to deliver these functions. The Government's view is that reform of the coronial system can be delivered by transferring responsibilities to either the Lord Chief Justice or Lord Chancellor, without the additional expense of a Chief Coroner. The details of this are set out in the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice's written ministerial statement of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 64-66WS.

Civil Servants

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in City of York in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* the most recent month for which figures are available. [69845]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many full time equivalent civil servants were employed in City of York in (a) April 2010 and (b) the most recent month for which figures are available. (69845)

There were approximately 2,960 permanent civil servants, on a full-time equivalent basis, employed in the City of York on 31 March 2010.

An estimate of Civil Service employment for the City of York is only published on an annual basis. Data for 2011, with reference to 31 March 2011, will be available from November, when Civil Service Statistics 2011 will be published.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67222]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not have responsibility for employment-related legislation. However, in common with partners across Government, my Department has been consulted throughout on the proposals for the employment law review.

Departmental Internet Services

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many requests for the creation of new websites his Department's Efficiency Board has received since May 2010; what proportion of such requests were granted authorisation; and if he will make a statement. [69776]

Mr Maude: The coalition Government have kept a very tight rein on the creation of unnecessary central Government websites. In line with the Public Accounts Committee recommendations of 2008, new sites are not approved except when necessary and with explicit permission. Since May 2010, only three new domains have been approved: a single machinery of government change (education.gov.uk), a change of name (for The Children's Commissioner) and a temporary development site (alpha.gov.uk). The ERG marketing controls, which receive requests on behalf of the Efficiency Board, does not analyse requests for web activity separately and cannot provide the number of requests without incurring disproportionate cost. Good progress is also being made on reducing the number of central Government websites and a list is published quarterly on the Cabinet Office website.

Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66565]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office had a total of £9,951.20 worth of equipment stolen or misplaced in the last 12 months. Every incident of lost or stolen property is taken seriously and is investigated.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67252]

Mr Maude: Since 1 April 2011, 10 of 10 contracts (100%) of the Cabinet Office's contract opportunities above £10,000 that are subject to open competition have been submitted for publication on Contracts Finder.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67174]

Mr Maude: The Department does not hold the information in the form requested.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67197]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has no plans to collate such data.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67590]

Mr Maude: I am not aware of any such requests being refused.

Electronic Government: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget is for the Government Digital Service in 2011-12. [67261]

Mr Maude: The budget for the Government digital service for the financial year 2011-12 is £22.3 million.

Government Communications

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what basis he determined his policy on the recommendations of the Review of Direct Communications and Government on the establishment of an enhanced Government communications centre. [67297]

Mr Maude: The recommendations were based on a range of evidence and analysis, and detailed policy development work. This included evidence and material from the Matt Tee Review of Government direct communications and the role of COI, as well as new internal and external data. The review had extensive engagement with and input from a range of experts including communications practitioners, the COI, directors of communications and heads of marketing. The Government response was overseen by Sir Gus O'Donnell and the COI accounting officer Ian Watmore.

John Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what date he determined his policy on the recommendations of the Review of Direct Communications and Government. [67298]

Mr Maude: The Review of Government direct communication and the role of COI was presented and discussed at the PEX(ER) Cabinet Sub-Committee on 31 March 2011. The Government response to this review was presented and discussed at the PEX(ER) Cabinet Sub-Committee on 22 June 2011, on which date the recommendations were fully endorsed.

Departmental Internet Services

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the benefits of the open sourcing of Government guidance and advice websites. [67339]

Mr Maude: The UK has huge knowledge capital in the creative and digital industries and we are working hard to enable them to flourish through allowing them to reuse public sector data and make a profit from their endeavours. The Government are committed to releasing data in reusable forms through their transparency agenda, with the intention of encouraging third parties to develop new services and markets. Where it is useful and appropriate to do so, we intend to link to their work.

Following the independent strategic review of Directgov, undertaken by Martha Lane Fox, the Government are taking this further in seeking that public services and information are able to be reused under appropriate free licensing and partnering arrangements through the use of APIs (Application Programming Interface). We have already developed standards in public for some parts and we intend to work with expertise wherever it lies to deliver effective digital services.

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to make Government websites accessible on handheld devices. [67340]

Mr Maude: To ensure that Government information and services are accessible on handheld devices, a mobile friendly version of Directgov,

http://m.direct.gov.uk

has been developed. The site launched in December 2005 and has gone through a number of iterations, supported by extensive user testing, in line with changes in the market, technological advances in mobile devices and the evolving needs of the mobile user.

A mobile content management system has been procured for use by Government Departments and agencies who sit outside the Directgov site. It is currently being used by NHS Choices to ensure their content is available on handheld devices and by The Charity Commission to develop a mobile version of their corporate website. Other departments and agencies are in the process of engaging with the Government digital service seeking advice and guidance on how to make their websites accessible on handheld devices.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many complaints concerning Contracts Finder his Department has received since its inception. [67257]

Mr Maude: Businesslink, who manage Contracts Finder on the Government's behalf, have received five complaints, all of which have now been addressed and closed. We have also received six plaudits.

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans his Department has to make Contracts Finder more accessible for small services businesses. [67258]

Mr Maude: The objective of Contracts Finder is to make Government contracts and opportunities more transparent, which is crucial to SMEs. In addition, we have taken three specific actions to make Contracts Finder more accessible to SMEs:

First, an SME representative has accepted an invitation to sit on the board that oversees the delivery of Contracts Finder.

Second, we have established a Contracts Finder SME Working Group to identify and address issues of concern and to promote good practice.

Third, we will be upgrading Contracts Finder in October to improve the search facilities.

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many notifications of tendering requirements have made use of a Prior Information Notice for Official Journal of the European Union procurements since May 2010. [67276]

Mr Maude: There were 1,059 Prior Information Notices from the United Kingdom, which were published in the Official Journal of the European Union in the period from 1 May 2010 to 14 July 2011.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* proportion of Government procurement from small and medium-sized enterprises in each of the last five years. [67856]

Mr Maude: Individual Departments have published this information for 2009-10 in their updated Business Plans, which can be seen via the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/department-business-plans-updated

A commentary on the overall picture is included in the SME Progress Report that published on 19 July:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/government-business-smes

Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Civil Service has reviewed the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of Welsh speakers employed by Government (i) departments and (ii) agencies located outside Wales. [67777]

Mr Maude: The numbers of Welsh speakers employed by Government Departments and agencies are not collected centrally by Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office has not undertaken any review of Welsh speaking staff employed outside Wales.

Graduates: Unemployment

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of unemployed graduates in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* each other London borough. [68701]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 20 July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the level of graduate unemployment figures in (a) Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, (b) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and (c) each other London borough. (68701)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Whilst the APS does collect data on graduate unemployment, no reliable statistics can be produced for the requested geographical breakdowns due to small sample sizes.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Julie Elliott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many graduates under the age of 30 were unemployed in Sunderland in each of the last five years. [68999]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many graduates under the age of 30 years were unemployed in Sunderland in each of the last five years. (68999)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Whilst the APS does collect data on graduate unemployment, no reliable statistics can be produced for the requested geographical and age breakdowns due to small sample sizes.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Life Expectancy

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy is for people aged 65 living in *(a)* Brighton, Kemptown constituency, *(b)* East Sussex, *(c)* West Sussex and *(d)* England. [68812]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average life expectancy is for people aged 65 living in (a) Brighton, Kemptown, (b) East Sussex, (c) West Sussex and (d) England. (68812)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three-year rolling averages and are available for the UK, England and Wales, England, Wales, regions and counties in England, and local and unitary authorities in England and Wales. Figures for Brighton Kemptown parliamentary constituency are not available. Therefore figures have been provided for the Brighton and Hove unitary authority.

Table 1 attached provides the period life expectancy at age 65 for men and women living in (a) Brighton and Hove unitary authority, (b) East Sussex county, (c) West Sussex county and (c) England, for 2007-09 (the latest figures available).

Period life expectancies at birth and at age 65 for males and females are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?newquery=Period+life+expectancies+at+birth+and+at+age+65+for+males+and+females

Table 1: Period life expectancy at age 65[1], Brighton and Hove unitary authority, East Sussex and West Sussex counties, and England[2], 2007-09[3]

		Years of life
Area	*Men*	*Women*
England	18	21
Brighton and Hove UA	18	21
East Sussex	19	22
West Sussex	19	21

[1] Period life expectancy at age 65 is an estimate of the average number of years a 65-year-old would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout the rest of his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a 65-year-old living in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those currently living in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[3] Three year rolling average, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

Public Sector

Andrew Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public sector employees in Yorkshire and the Humber were paid a basic salary higher than that of the Prime Minister in 2010-11. [68974]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many public sector employees in Yorkshire and the Humber were paid a basic salary higher than that of the Prime Minister in 2010-11. (68974)

ONS's preferred measure of employee earnings comes from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). ASHE is carried out in April each year and is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

While the ASHE does collect data on public sector earnings in Yorkshire and Humber, no reliable statistics can be produced on the number of public sector employees earning greater than the Prime Minister's salary due to the relatively small sample size at this geographical breakdown.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which local authorities were using Contracts Finder on the latest date for which information is available. [67259]

Mr Maude: We publish a list of buyer groups who have registered to use Contracts Finder at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1086925073&type=RESOURCES

As of 30 August 2011, this included the following the local authorities:

Babergh District Council
Birmingham City Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Cornwall Council
Crawley Borough Council/Horsham District Council/Mid Sussex District Council Shared Procurement Service
Dacorum Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Ealing Borough Council
Forest Heath District Council
Gloucestershire shared service
Guildford Borough Council
Hambleton & Richmondshire District Councils
Hampshire County Council
Harrow Council
Herfordshire County Council
Horsham District Council
Ipswich Borough Council
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
London Borough of Bexley
London Borough of Camden
London Borough of Hackney
London Borough of Haringey
London Borough of Hounslow

London Borough of Lambeth
London Borough of Lewisham
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Middlesbrough Borough Council
Milton Keynes Council
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
Norfolk County Council
North Tyneside Council
Northampton Borough Council
Norwich City Council
Oxford City Council
Reading Borough Council
Redditch Borough Council/Bromsgrove District Council
Sheffield City Council
Shropshire Council
Solihull MBC
Somerset County Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Southampton City Council
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Staffordshire County Council
Stockton on Tees Borough Council
Stoke on Trent City Council
Suffolk County Council
Swindon Borough Council
Tamworth Borough Council
Tangmere Parish Council
Walsall Council
Wandsworth Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council
Warwickshire County Council
Waveney District Council
West Berkshire Council
West Sussex County Council
Wigan Council

Members: Correspondence

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale of *(a)* 13 April 2011 and *(b)* 30 June 2011 on behalf of Mr Neil O'Brien. [69420]

Mr Maude: The letters fell within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I asked the COI to reply.

They replied on 12 May. I have asked for a copy to be resent for the hon. Member's convenience.

Mental Health Services: Death

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths were reported in mental health hospitals or units in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* NHS mental health trust in each of the last five years. [69064]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths were reported in mental health hospitals or units in each (a) London borough and (b) NHS mental health trust in each of the last five years. (69064)

The table provides the number of deaths occurring in NHS psychiatric hospitals or units in each London borough between 2006 and 2010 (the latest year available). Place of death information is provided by the informant at death registration.

Figures for individual years have been combined, in line with the ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics.

It is not possible to provide figures for each NHS mental health trust as the information collected at death registration does not distinguish between the organisations managerially responsible for the patient's care. Although the name and address of the hospital where the death occurred is recorded at registration the services provide at a single hospital site may be managed by several NHS Trusts or private contractors.

Figures for the number of deaths by place of occurrence are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?newquery=number+of+deaths+registered+each+year+by+sex%2C+age%2C+cause+and+place+of+death

Categories used to define place of occurrence include hospitals, hospices and at home. Figures for individual hospital sites are not routinely produced.

Table 1: Number of deaths occurring in NHS psychiatric hospitals or units, London boroughs, 2006-2010[1,2,3,4,5,6]

	Persons
Borough	*Deaths*
Bromley	4
Camden	4
Hackney	1
Haringey	59
Hillingdon	16
Kensington and Chelsea	1
Newham	7
Redbridge	2
Southwark	4
Tower Hamlets	5
Waltham Forest	1
Wandsworth	3
Westminster	25

[1] London boroughs that contain no NHS psychiatric hospitals or units are not included in the table.
[2] London boroughs that contain NHS psychiatric hospitals or units but where no deaths occurred between 2006 and 2010 are not included in the table.
[3] A person who dies in an establishment in a specific area may not be resident in that area.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[5] Figures for communal establishments are provisional until November 2011.
[6] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

National Security Adviser

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the objectives are of the National Security Adviser. [69534]

Mr Maude: As set out on the Government website:

www.data.gov.uk

the NSA's responsibilities are as follows:

The National Security Adviser is the Prime Minister's adviser on international and domestic security issues. Secretary to the National Security Council co-ordinating policy advice and decision making across Government and managing the National Security Secretariat in support of the Council. Co-ordinator of the intelligence community, accounting officer for the Single Intelligence Account, and line manager of the Heads of Intelligence Agencies. The National Security Adviser's remit includes: Foreign and Defence Policy; Counter Terrorism; Intelligence Policy; the governance and resourcing of the secret intelligence agencies; Cyber Security; Resilience and crisis management.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what basis local authorities were chosen to participate in trials of social impact bonds for family intervention; and if he will make a statement. [70523]

Mr Hurd: The four local authorities chosen for the pilot schemes are Westminster city council, the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Birmingham city council and Leicestershire county council. These areas were chosen on the basis of being community budget areas, having a clear focus for how social impact bonds could be used to help troubled families, and being committed to detailed design work.

Following the development of these pilot schemes, the Government will consider whether similar contracts could be developed in other local areas.

In addition, the Department for Education is planning to work with other local authorities that want to get advances on their Early Intervention Grant to invest in redesign of services to improve outcomes for troubled families, based on the potential savings such changes could make.

Personal Data: UK Citizens

David Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions live personal data relating to UK citizens held by Government Departments has been off-shored in the last five years. [68600]

Mr Maude: Information is not held centrally as individual Departments are responsible for decisions relating to the off-shoring of personal data (either 'live' or otherwise). To assist with the decision making process, the Government have provided guidance to all Departments on off-shoring which includes risk assessment as well as value for money considerations. Any decision must also comply with UK and EU Data Protection legislation and regulations.

Where suppliers proffer off-shored services certain safeguards apply; for example, the Government's standard terms and conditions provide the necessary protections where personal data may be off-shored. These can be found in the Office of Government Commerce Procurement Policy Note;

> "Data Handling Review—Further information about the processes and contractual provisions that are necessary for robust and appropriate data handling processes."

Social Enterprises

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of central government procurement expenditure was spent with social enterprises in the latest period for which figures are available. [69378]

Mr Hurd: Data are not available to determine the proportion of central Government procurement expenditure to social enterprises.

Information on central Government spend to the voluntary and charitable sector (including both grants and contracts) is available through Departmental Business Plans, published at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

Latest figures for 2009-10 have been published by 11 central Government Departments to date, totalling £1.27 billion. This figure will include some grants and contracts to social enterprises.

Street Collectors: Regulations

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects regulations in the Charities Act 2006 giving powers to local authorities to regulate street collectors to be laid before the House. [68572]

Mr Hurd: There are no current plans to commence part 3 of the Charities Act 2006, and make the necessary supporting regulations. The future licensing and regulation of public charitable collections will be considered as part of the review of the Charities Act 2006, due to begin later this year. In the current economic climate implementation of the Charities Act 2006 licensing provisions will have to be weighed against other priorities. Effectiveness, affordability and value for money will be important factors in determining whether the new licensing regime is implemented. Whatever the outcome of the review, we want to make it easier for charities to fundraise responsibly, whilst deterring bogus collectors and preventing nuisance for members of the public. Under the Police, Factories etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916, and local street collections regulations, local licensing authorities already have the power to regulate most types of charitable street collections.

Public Sector Procurement

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what reviews have been undertaken by his Department or its agencies on the alignment of public procurement processes with the objective of rebalancing the economy in favour of manufacturing since May 2010. [68846]

Mr Maude: The principal objective of public sector procurement is to achieve the best value for money for the public purse. Within the context of that overarching objective, the current phase of the Growth Review will explore how Government can manage public procurement in a way that supports UK strategic capability and competitive supply chains.

In addition, we are currently considering our position on the role of public procurement in delivering wider policy objectives and will be making an announcement in due course.

Job Vacancies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies available in *(a)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(b)* Kingston-upon-Thames borough in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [69535]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of job vacancies available in (a) Richmond-Upon-Thames and (b) Kingston-Upon-Thames borough in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. (69535)

Information on job vacancies below a UK level is from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and consequently is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the Vacancy Survey. Currently Jobcentre Plus vacancies account for around half of the total number of vacancies as reported by the Vacancy Survey.

In Table 1, we have provided the number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies for each of the latest 12 months for which figures are available for Richmond-Upon-Thames and Kingston-Upon-Thames borough.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies, June 2010 to June 2011[1]

	Kingston-upon-Thames	*Richmond-upon-Thames*
2010		
June	799	573
July	618	544
August	1,012	633
September	—	—
October	647	620
November	730	716
December	583	468
2011		
January	430	389
February	890	596
March	682	553
April	561	349
May	386	382
June	646	486

[1] Data for September 2010 are not currently available.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System.

JUSTICE

UK Bill of Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish copies of the *(a)* work programme, *(b)* minutes of meetings and *(c)* agenda and meeting papers of the Commission on a UK Bill of Rights. [69111]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: It will be for the Commission to determine whether it publishes a work programme, the minutes of its meetings and agendas and meeting papers.

The Commission has published the minutes of its meeting of 6 May and a discussion paper 'Do we need a UK Bill of Rights' on its web pages. It will publish further details of its work in due course.

Bail

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 324W, on bail, how many people breached their bail conditions where *(a)* a surety and *(b)* a security were given in order for bail to be granted in the most recent year for which figures are available. [69732]

Mr Blunt: During financial year April 2010 to March 2011, there were a total of 45 breaches of bail conditions (securities only) amounting to forfeiture of £179,560.86. There were no forfeitures of bail conditions where surety was given.

This was recovered in full from bail deposits (lodged) paid directly into the HMCTS Bail Deposit bank account.

Graveyards: Injuries

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries have occurred in each graveyard in each of the last 10 years. [67950]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not held or collated centrally. Responsibility for the safety of graveyards lies with individual burial authorities and to obtain this information from them would be at disproportionate cost, as it would require officials to contact every burial authority in England and Wales.

Claims Management Services

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many complaints the Legal Ombudsman received about *(a)* claims management companies and *(b)* other non-regulated legal services providers such as will writers in the latest period for which figures are available; [68854]

(2) what proportion of the cost of running the Ombudsman scheme were spent on dealing with claims management complaints outside the scheme's jurisdiction in the last year for which figures are available. [68926]

Mr Djanogly: The latest figures published in the Office for Legal Complaints annual report show that the Legal Ombudsman received 38,155 contacts during its first six months of operation. Of these between 40-50% are signposted to other organisations. Approximately 9% of signposted complaints related to claims management companies or other non-regulated legal service providers.

There is a cost to the Legal Ombudsman in signposting these complaints and in some cases in determining whether they fall within jurisdiction. While it is not possible to place an exact figure on this the Legal Ombudsman estimates the costs to be around £150,000 per annum of which approximately one third relates to claims management complaints.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of claims management companies where a director or senior employee was previously employed by a claims management company that is no longer authorised by his Department. [68925]

Mr Djanogly: The Department does not hold statistical information on the number of claims management companies where a director or senior employee was previously employed by a claims management company that is no longer authorised. However, we do closely monitor the activities of claims management businesses that have directors or senior employees who were previously associated with claims management businesses that are no longer authorised. Checks are also carried out into applicant businesses, including determining the suitability of individuals, such as directors or senior employees, who would have an influence on an applicant business's policy or management.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times his Department has taken account of consumer complaints in determining whether to license a claims management company. [68927]

Mr Djanogly: A number of factors are taken into account in determining whether to issue licences. This includes any information and complaints received from consumers in respect of the applicant business. Businesses are prohibited from carrying out any regulated claims management services before the issue of a licence and as such, consumer complaints about the provision of such services are not generally a feature in the determination.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost has been to his Department of handling complaints against claims management companies in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* the current financial year. [68928]

Mr Djanogly: The net cost to this Department of handling complaints against claims management companies is nil. The cost of operating the claims management regulatory regime, which handles such complaints, is met by fees charged to claims management companies.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff *(a)* employed and *(b)* contracted by his Department to work on claims management regulation handle complaints about claims management companies. [68929]

Mr Djanogly: At the end of July 2011, eight employees and 39 contracted staff work in the Department's claims management regulation unit. Three employees and seven contracted staff handle consumer advice matters, including complaints. Claims management regulation is primarily a statutory regulatory function under the Compensation Act 2006. Although it has limited complaints-handling powers, the claims management regulation unit provides a considerable amount of informal advice and assistance to consumers.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what remedies the Claims Management Regulator has awarded since April 2011 to consumers who complained to them about the poor service provided by a claims management company. [69190]

Mr Djanogly: The Claims Management Regulator has not awarded any formal remedies to consumers since April 2011, but we have helped 1,338 consumers to resolve their complaints against claims management companies between April and June 2011. This includes advising consumers on the options available to them, contacting businesses to discuss the consumer's complaint and where appropriate ask the business to provide partial or full refunds of fees paid.

Community Orders

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community orders were handed down in each of the last five years; and how many such orders were handed down with *(a)* a mental health treatment order, *(b)* an unpaid work order and *(c)* a drug rehabilitation requirement. [68068]

Mr Blunt: The following tables show the number of offenders starting community order supervision by the probation service and the numbers of mental health, unpaid work and drug treatment requirements started under those orders in each of the last five years.

Table A: Offenders starting community orders, England and Wales, 2006-10

	Number
2006	111,752
2007	117,860
2008	120,743
2009	122,796
2010	118,696

Table B: Number of requirements commenced under community orders, England and Wales, 2006-10

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Mental health treatment	750	652	739	809	743
Unpaid work	66,937	74,779	74,629	76,699	73,797
Drug treatment	11,895	12.145	13,153	12,087	11,996

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he expects probation trusts to take on additional staff to manage cash flow following a successful bid for the provision of Unpaid Work in England and Wales. [68158]

Mr Blunt: In the event that it is a successful bidder for the provision of unpaid work, it will be a matter for the trust to decide how it manages the financial arrangements.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who *(a)* the customer for and *(b)* the provider of Unpaid Work in England and Wales is. [68159]

Mr Blunt: Probation trusts are the providers who currently deliver community payback (unpaid work) under contract to NOMS MOJ. NOMS commissions the provision to enable courts to include unpaid work as a requirement of a community sentence.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people breached their *(a)* community order and *(b)* suspended sentence in (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007, (viii) 2008, (ix) 2009 and (x) 2010. [68270]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on breaches of community sentences by individual offenders is recorded by probation trusts on their case management systems. It is used in the day-to-day management of offenders, including as a trigger to appropriate action in response to breach, for example through formal warnings or enforcement action, but the figures requested do not form part of trusts' routine reporting.

Data are available on the reasons for termination of community orders and suspended sentence orders. These reasons include early termination for failure to comply with requirements or for conviction of a further offence. Figures for the percentage of cases which terminated for these and other reasons for the years 2006 to 2010 have been published in Table A4.23 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics annual tables for 2010 on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/mojstats/omcs-annual-tables-2010.zip

Figures relating to 2001 to 2005 were published in Table 5.1 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100406130654/http://justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/omcs2007.pdf

The community order and suspended sentence order were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and apply to offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. Other community sentences applied before this date and are shown in the published figures for the earlier years in the time series requested.

Not all breaches of community sentences will result in early termination. In line with National Standards for the Management of Offenders 2011 and the accompanying draft Practice Framework an offender who fails to comply with the terms of his or her supervision on a community order or suspended sentence order may be given one formal warning in any 12-month period on an order before breach action becomes required. Furthermore, although the court which hears an allegation of breach on a community order may decide to revoke the order and replace it with an alternative community or custodial sentence, it may on the other hand decide that the order should continue with more onerous requirements.

Corruption

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish annually *(a)* an action plan and *(b)* a progress report on his work as the Government's Anti-corruption Champion. [68646]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I refer you to my previous parliamentary written answers of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 453W and 23 May 2001, *Official Report*, column 400W, to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North (Catherine McKinnell), in which I outlined my role as the UK's International Anti-corruption Champion and the actions I plan to complete during the remainder of 2011.

The UK is currently being evaluated by both the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the OECD on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. Officials from a number of Government Departments and law enforcement agencies are completing reports which will be published next year and will provide a detailed analysis of the UK's progress in anti-corruption. In light of this, I do not consider that an additional annual progress report is required.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps as the Government's Anti-Corruption Champion to reduce corruption and increase transparency in international sports governing bodies through the UK's membership of such bodies; and if he will make a statement. [68886]

Mr Djanogly: On behalf of the UK Government, the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent (Hugh Robertson), has supported the EU presidency's aim to ensure all international sports bodies become more transparent and accountable for the worldwide good of the sport. Further, member states agreed in the EU Work Plan themes which were adopted on 20 May 2011 that priority should be given to the integrity of sport, in particular the fight against doping, match-fixing and the promotion of good governance. The UK will play an active role in the expert group established to take this work forward and the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), will take a keen interest in the progress made in this area.

Cremation and Burial

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the fee required in order for doctors to release a body for cremation or burial was in each primary care trust area in each financial year since 1997-98; how many bodies have been released for cremation or burial in each financial year since 1997; and if he will publish any submissions received by his Department from the British Medical Association concerning the level of such fees. [68292]

Mr Djanogly: No fees are payable to medical practitioners for the release of bodies for burial or cremation.

Fees are, however, payable to medical practitioners who complete the statutory medical certificates required to enable cremation to take place but these fees are not set or collated centrally.

The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for cremation and burial law and policy but it does not collect annual statistics for cremations and burials. To do so would be at disproportionate cost as it would require officials to contact every burial and cremation authority in England and Wales.

The Ministry of Justice has not received any submissions from the British Medical Association on this subject.

Crime Victims

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that *(a)* victims of crime and *(b)* families of victims of crime are able to claim (i) transportation costs, (ii) lunch expenses and (iii) accommodation costs when attending the parole hearing of a defendant relevant to their case if they are unable to meet such costs. [68630]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice funds the Bereaved Relatives Fund which is administered by Victim Support. Victims bereaved by crime can apply for financial assistance to help meet the travel, food and accommodation costs associated with attending trials and Parole Board oral hearings. Victim Support will exercise discretion and may exceptionally agree to meet the costs of victims, other than those who have been bereaved, to attend a Parole Board hearing. Priority will, however, be given to victims bereaved by crime.

We are working with the Parole Board towards a pilot of using video-link technology at oral hearings. If the pilot proves successful, it is likely to have a positive benefit in giving more victims the opportunity to deliver their victim personal statement locally rather than incur the cost, inconvenience and occasional distress of travelling to the prison in which the Parole Board hearing is taking place.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that *(a)* victims of crime and *(b)* families of victims of crime receive at no charge transcripts of any court case relevant to them. [68631]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have no plans to provide full transcripts of court hearings to victims of crime and their families free of charge. Such a step would be unaffordable and create significant administrative burdens. The Government are currently considering the report from the Victims' Commissioner which proposes that sentencing remarks and trial transcripts should be provided to bereaved families.

Crimes Against Humanity: World War II

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted since 1981 of offences relating to crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War. [69393]

Mr Blunt: Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not separately identify offences of crimes against humanity. War crimes and crimes against humanity are recorded as murder or ancillary offences.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority will commence; [69350]

(2) whether the review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority will include the rules relating to payments for victims of attacks by dogs. [69351]

Mr Blunt: The Government are not reviewing the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority but are reviewing the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which the authority administers. We intend to bring forward proposals for consultation in the autumn.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases lodged with the Criminal Injuries Authority had not been settled on the latest date for which figures are available. [68103]

Mr Djanogly: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's live caseload was 50,065 on 19 July 2011.

Cycling Convictions

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cyclists were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for (i) injuring and (ii) killing pedestrians in each year since 1996; [68453]

(2) what the average sentence was of cyclists convicted of *(a)* killing and *(b)* injuring pedestrians in each year since 1996. [68459]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 959W.

Data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice do not include information about the circumstances of each case other than those which may be identified from a statute. It is therefore not possible to specifically identify from offences in which cyclists are involved in death or injury or the status of victims, pedestrian or otherwise, involved in road traffic accidents.

Data Protection

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is considering in respect of the trade in personal data by the media, insurance companies and other third parties; and if he will make a statement. [69463]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 452W, to the right hon. Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames), which concerns the unlawful trade in personal data and refers to the Leveson Inquiry into phone hacking. The final Terms of Reference for the Leveson Inquiry were announced on 20 July 2011 and include the extent to which the current policy and regulatory framework may have failed, including in relation to data protection.

The current legislative framework for data protection is being reviewed, and the Government are preparing for negotiations on a new EU legislative instrument for data protection. These negotiations are expected to begin later this year, and will look at the way data is shared and processed.

However, it should be noted that personal data can also be traded between organisations lawfully, providing all appropriate requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation are met. Privacy notices can assist in meeting those requirements, but they must be clear, upfront and informative, and inform individuals, among other things, with whom this data will be shared. Any breaches of the DPA can result in enforcement action taken by the Information Commissioner.

Collection of Fines

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which part of Government is responsible for the collection of fines imposed at *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* Crown courts. [68269]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, an Executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, is responsible for the collection of fines imposed in the magistrates and Crown courts.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67913]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the occasions when the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has flown by budget airline and economy class:

Flight	*Reason for flight*
Economy Class	
London to Luxembourg	Flights to and from October—European Justice and Home Affairs Council in Luxembourg
Zurich to London	Return flight from December—European Justice and Home Affairs Council in Brussels
Budget Carrier	
London to Gdansk	Flights to and from July—European Justice and Home Affairs Council in Poland

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1018W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67929]

Mr Djanogly: Pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1018W, on departmental carbon emissions the sources of low-carbon energy generation on the Ministry of Justice estate were manufactured as follows:

Partnerships for Renewables turbine procurement strategy is driven by market availability at the time of commencing construction. The National Offender Management Service, in association with Partnerships for Renewables, has plans for wind energy generation at Standford Hill on the Isle of Sheppey. Turbines are required to meet with the technical criteria imposed by the planning permission. Partnerships for Renewables anticipate the turbines for the Standford Hill project to come from Europe as no appropriate-scale onshore turbines are currently manufactured in the UK.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service are piloting photovoltaics at Leeds Combined Court Centre. The photovoltaic at Leeds is manufactured in Durham, UK.

The National Archives at Kew utilises a 150 kWe Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant to generate low carbon electricity from natural gas. The unit was manufactured in Manchester, UK.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68950]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold records centrally of the pre-employment details of its senior civil servants. To establish the pre-employment status of all current and prior employed senior civil servants (SCS) for the last years four years would require a manual examination of all SCS personal records and incur a disproportionate cost.

The consultancy agreements in place over the last four years is given in the following tables. The Ministry of Justice does not hold information centrally on how many consultants from those firms shown have advised the Ministry in each year. To establish this information would require a detailed examination of all agreements and incur a disproportionate cost.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Year contract commenced	*Contract description*
2008	Specification, Benchmarking and Costing Programme for Prisons and Probation Accountancy advice on the Quantum Contract Consultancy support to the reorganisation and redevelopment programme
2009	Support to develop Framework For Probation Trust Programme Specification, Benchmarking and Costing Programme for Prisons and Probation Probation Transformation, Start up Brief
2010	National Offender Management Services (NOMS) Operational Framework Operating Model Review Public Value Programme HM Courts Service Operation Modelling NOMS Operational Framework scenario analysis
2011	No contracts

Deloitte

Year contract commenced	*Contract description*
2008	No contracts
2009	Programme Consultancy
2010	Negotiate lease of Westminster Magistrates Court Technical Financial Management Support Estates Management/Surveying Services (Framework Contract) Transforming Justice Phoenix Technical Review
2011	Actuarial Review of Probation Trusts annual pension statements Provision of Business Consultancy Services to support NOMS Prison Industries

Ernst & Young

Year contract commenced	*Contract description*
2008	No contracts
2009	Financial Support to Legal Services Commission

Ernst & Young

Year contract commenced	*Contract description*
2010	Financial analysis
	Consultancy Services for Ministry of Justice Finance Function Review
	In-house delivery of internal audit services
2011	No contracts

KPMG

Year contract commenced	*Contract description*
2008	Support development of the NOMS regional scorecard
	Probation trusts programme review consultancy
	Framework Agreement Contract for the provision of Concept Designers, Project Managers and Technical Advisors and Financial Advisors Consultancy Services
2009	Witness Service Review
	Criminal Justice Services Exchange
2010	Benchmarking costs exercise
	HM Lands Registry Feasibility Study
2011	Specification
	Accounts Production 2010-11

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68753]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice received 920 letters from hon. Members in June 2011.

Domestic Violence Services

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the level of funding per head of population for domestic violence services through the Victims and Witnesses General Fund in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [69437]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the level of funding allocated per head of population from the Victim and Witness General Fund. However, the following table shows the grants awarded from the Fund to domestic-violence services across England and Wales, providing a breakdown by area. This information is available on the Ministry of Justice website.

	Geographical area covered	*Total award over three years (£)*
Organisations in England		
Acorns	North Tyneside	100,767
Refuge	Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Coventry and Warwickshire	313,169
Nottingham Women's Aid Ltd	Nottingham	103,460
My Sister's Place	Middlesbrough	122,667
Women's Aid Integrated Service	Nottingham and Newark	186,445
Crime Reduction Initiative	East Sussex	106,887
Domestic Violence Services (Keighley)	Bradford North and Bradford South	290,800
East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services	Surrey	121,428
Early interventions and Protection Services	Portsmouth	120,000
Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid	Birmingham	120,575
Citizen's Advice Bureau (Maidstone)	Maidstone	90,000
The NIA Project	Hackney and Tower Hamlets	129,668
Domestic Violence and Abuse Service (S&W Devon)	Devon	339,381
North Derbyshire Women's Aid	North East Derbyshire	95,715
Southampton Women's Aid	Southampton	96,000
Stonham	Staffordshire	100,872
Women's Trust	Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea	142,230
Leeway	Norfolk	99,904
RISE	Brighton	122,506
BCHA	Bournemouth, Poole and Somerset	216,805
Sandwell Women's Aid	Sandwell and Dudley	110,415
Survive (Bristol)	Yate	134,449
Novas Scarman Group	Cheltenham	108,517
OASIS Domestic Violence Service	Canterbury and Thanet	117,788
Advance	Hammersmith, Fulham and Brent	60,000
North Nottinghamshire Independent Domestic Abuse Services (NNIDAS)	Mansfield and Ashfield	108,827
Arch (Staffs)	Stoke on Trent	114,167
Victim Support	South Devon	124,200
Lighthouse Women's Aid	Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft	372,081
Total		4,269,723.00
Organisations in Wales		
Domestic Abuse Safety Unit	Flintshire, North Wales	90,000
Safer Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	67,382
Wrexham Women's Aid	Wrexham	138,639
Atal-y-Fro	Vale of Glamorgan	123,774
Total		419,795.00

Domestic Violence: Legal Aid

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on ensuring that victims of domestic abuse have full access to legal aid under his proposals for reform of legal aid. [69077]

Mr Djanogly: We published the Government's response to the consultation on "Proposals for the Reform of legal aid in England and Wales" on 21 June. Legal aid will remain available for applications for civil remedies for domestic violence under the Family Law Act 1996, and for injunctions to restrain abusive behaviour, as at present. For private family law cases, such as disputes about children or finance following the breakdown of a relationship, legal aid will be available for victims of domestic violence where there is objective evidence of abuse.

I announced to the Public Bill Committee on the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on 19 July that the Government will also retain civil legal aid for cases arising under the immigration domestic violence rule.

Vehicle Removal

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review his policy on charging victims of vehicle theft for parking and release fees. [61382]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

There is no Home Office policy to this effect. The police are empowered to remove and store any vehicle, stolen or not, that has been left illegally, dangerously or obstructively on a road, has broken down on a road, or has been abandoned. Removal is necessary to enable the police to enforce the law, remove obstructions and potential dangers, prevent any further theft or vandalism of the vehicles, their being used for crime or becoming a focus of crime or environmental degradation, or being driven while in a dangerous condition. To meet the very significant costs involved in such removals and storage nationwide, the police are empowered to charge vehicle owners prescribed fees before releasing a vehicle back to them. This includes in cases where the vehicle was stolen. The police may at their discretion waive the charges in individual cases, but if they do so the cost falls to their general budget and diverts resources from other use. Any request for charges to be waived or for reimbursement of paid charges would be a matter for the individual force concerned. When taking out an insurance policy, motorists may wish to consider whether to seek cover for the charges.

Drugs: Convictions

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Chatham and Aylesford constituency have been convicted of *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of illegal drugs of each classification level in each year since 2007; and how many such people received (i) a custodial sentence and (ii) the maximum sentence in each case. [68403]

Mr Blunt: Persons found guilty, sentenced and given the statutory maximum sentence at all courts for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, by classification, in Kent police force area from 2007 to 2010, can be viewed in the following tables.

Court proceedings data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts and sentenced for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug and maximum sentence, Kent police force area, 2007-10[1, 2, 3]

	2007					2008				
Drug offences	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*
Possession class A (Max 7 years)	247	245	24	221	0	271	270	17	253	0
Possession class B (Max 5 years)	92	90	8	82	0	73	73	3	70	0
Possession class C (Max 2 years)	54	54	1	53	0	55	55	—	55	0
Possession class unspecified	—	—	—	—	n/a	—	—	—	—	n/a
Possession cannabis[4] (Max 5 years)	45	48	—	48	0	379	380	5	375	0
Supply class A (Max life)	63	64	47	17	0	106	102	82	20	0
Supply class B (Max 14 years)	1	—	—	—	0	2	2	—	2	0
Supply class C (Max 14 years)	5	6	1	5	0	5	5	1	4	0
Supply class unspecified	2	2	2	—	n/a	9	9	9	—	n/a
Supply cannabis[4] (Max 14 years)	1	3	—	3	0	8	7	2	5	0

Number of persons found guilty at all courts and sentenced for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug and maximum sentence, Kent police force area, 2007-10[1, 2, 3]

	2007					2008				
Drug offences	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*
Possession with intent to supply Class A (Max life)	52	52	36	16	0	64	62	47	15	0
Possession with intent to supply Class B (Max 14 years)	5	5	3	2	0	5	5	3	2	0
Possession with intent to supply Class C (Max 14 years)	6	8	4	4	0	17	25	10	15	0
Possession with intent to supply Class unspecified	1	1	1	—	n/a	—	—	—	—	n/a
Possession with intent to supply cannabis (Max 14 years)	10	10	4	6	0	25	21	4	17	0

	2009					2010				
Drug offences	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*
Possession class A (Max 7 years)	291	290	22	268	4	296	295	16	279	0
Possession class B (Max 5 years)	108	108	3	105	0	145	143	5	138	0
Possession class C (Max 2 years)	20	20	3	17	0	29	30	—	30	0
Possession class unspecified	1	1	1	—	n/a	—	—	—	—	n/a
Possession cannabis[4] (Max 5 years)	400	402	20	382	0	425	426	10	416	0
Supply class A (Max life)	63	64	53	11	0	96	98	87	11	0
Supply class B (Max 14 years)	7	7	6	1	0	8	8	2	6	0
Supply class C (Max 14 years)	10	10	6	4	0	1	1	1	—	0
Supply class unspecified	23	23	22	1	n/a	34	34	32	2	n/a
Supply cannabis[4] (Max 14 years)	17	17	13	4	0	8	9	3	6	0
Possession with intent to supply Class A (Max life)	97	96	79	17	0	96	98	71	27	0
Possession with intent to supply Class B (Max 14 years)	12	13	7	6	0	18	17	6	11	0
Possession with intent to supply Class C (Max 14 years)	9	10	4	6	0	4	4	2	2	0

	2009					2010				
Drug offences	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*	*Maximum sentence*
Possession with intent to supply Class unspecified	5	5	5	—	n/a	—	—	—	—	n/a
Possession with intent to supply Cannabis (Max 14 years)	43	43	10	33	0	61	61	21	40	0

n/a = Not applicable

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[4] Cannabis was re-classified to a class B drug on 26 January 2009.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

European Court of Human Rights

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice he has received on the ability of the UK acting alone to block the adoption of resolutions and any other decisions of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe regarding *(a)* the establishment of a timescale for the enactment of a change in UK law pursuant to the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in Hirst v. United Kingdom (No. 2) and *(b)* the UK's execution of any other judgment of the European Court of Human Rights. [68511]

Mr Djanogly: Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are binding on the UK as a matter of international law. The Committee of Ministers supervises the implementation of judgments by member states. The committee comprises representatives of all 47 member states of the Council of Europe, including the UK. Its resolutions and decisions are adopted by consensus wherever possible, otherwise by two-thirds majority vote as stipulated by the Committee's rules, meaning no member state acting alone is able to block them.

Fines

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many standard scale level *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five and *(f)* six fines were (i) levied and (ii) collected in full in (A) 2001, (B) 2002, (C) 2003, (D) 2004, (E) 2005, (F) 2006, (G) 2007, (H) 2008, (I) 2009 and (J) 2010. [68313]

Mr Djanogly: To ascertain the number of standard scale level one, two, three, four and five fines imposed at the magistrates courts and collected in full would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to increase scrutiny of policies related to human rights from the Council of Europe and its institutions by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* Parliament. [68027]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have no plans to increase Government or parliamentary scrutiny of human rights policies originating from the Council of Europe and its institutions.

Most such policies are not legally binding on member states, and those that are would trigger the existing scrutiny arrangements in section 20 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2005 before the United Kingdom became party to them.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward any measures relating to human rights in response to Resolution 1823 (2011) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe entitled National parliaments: guarantors of human rights in Europe. [68089]

Mr Djanogly: There are no plans to bring forward any specific measures in response to Resolution 1823(2011). The United Kingdom is cited as a positive example in the text of the Resolution for having established parliamentary structures to monitor the implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

Immigration Advisory Service

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who will assume responsibility for the casework of the Immigration Advisory Service following the organisation entering administration. [68470]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has been working closely with IAS's auditors and their wider immigration and asylum provider base to ensure the efficient transfer of files to alternative providers. At the time of writing, the LSC has had indications from providers that there is capacity to take on an additional 28,000 case starts, against the 8,000 live files IAS had at the time they went into administration. The LSC and the administrators are also working to identify urgent matters, involving for example unaccompanied asylum seeking minors or those with hearings in the very near future, with the objective of allocating these cases as a priority.

Knife Crimes

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced for threatening someone with a knife in each of the last three years; and what sentence they received in each case. [69735]

Mr Blunt: Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database does not include information about the circumstances behind each case, other than that which may be identified from a statute. It is not possible to separately identify those specific cases where the defendant was proceeded against for threatening someone with a knife.

Legal Services Board

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Legal Services Board has taken in preparation for becoming the independent regulator for claims management under the provisions of the Legal Services Act 2007. [68853]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Board has no plans to seek oversight of claims management regulation or to provide claims management regulation directly.

Neil Wallis

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what communications *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his private office and *(d)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers of his Department have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with Neil Wallis since his appointment; and on what dates. [68739]

Mr Djanogly: I can confirm that the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has not had any communications with Neil Wallis since being appointed. I can also confirm on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice that other individuals specified by the hon. Member have not had communications with Neil Wallis.

Due to the large number of officials in the Ministry, the work involved in searching records to assemble information for officials would exceed the cost limit for answering parliamentary questions. However, the permanent secretary and directors general in the Ministry of Justice have confirmed they have not had communications with Neil Wallis.

Paedophilia

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences related to paedophilia there were in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* average, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* longest custodial sentence for such offences was in each such year. [68614]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows the number of defendants aged 18 and over found guilty at all courts, sentenced and the average custodial sentence length (in months) for sexual offences against children and the production and possession of indecent photographs in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010 (latest available). Table 2 shows the number of defendants aged 18 and over sentenced to the shortest and longest custodial sentence given for sexual offences against children in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010.

Information held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database does not include information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. These statutes do not identify offences as relating to 'paedophilia'.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Table 1: Defendants aged 18 and over found guilty all courts, sentenced and the average custodial sentence length (months)[1] for sexual offences against children[2] and the production and possession of indecent photographs in England and Wales, 2006-10[3,4]

	2006	2007	2008[5]	2009	2010
Found guilty	2,942	3,026	3,299	3,394	3,861
Sentenced[6]	2,964	2,998	3,300	3,359	3,841
Immediate custody	1,939	1.965	2,165	2,159	2,373
Of which:					
Average custodial sentence length	37.4	41.0	41.3	45.7	46.7

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[2] Sexual offences against children include: Sexual Offences Act 1956, Sexual Offences Act 2003, Indecency with Children Act 1960, Protection of Children Act 1978 and Criminal Justice Act 1988.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[6] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Police Cautions: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many police cautions were issued in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each year since 1997. [67967]

Mr Blunt: Offenders cautioned for all offences in the Kent police force area from 1997 to 2010 (latest available), can be viewed in the following table.

Cautions data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Offenders cautioned[1,2] for all offences in Kent police force area, 1997 to 2010[3]

	Offenders
1997	7,129
1998	8,570
1999	8,533
2000	7,655
2001	7,339
2002	6,479
2003	8,252
2004	10,013

Offenders cautioned[1,2] for all offences in Kent police force area, 1997 to 2010[3]

	Offenders
2005	10,166
2006	11,541
2007	12,057
2008	10,627
2009	11,385
2010	9,234

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prison Accommodation

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* effects on the number of prison places of implementing (i) section 154, (ii) section 155, (iii) section 280, (iv) section 281, (v) section 282, (vi) section 283, (vii) section 298, (viii) Schedule 25, (ix) Schedule 26, (x) Schedule 27, (xi) paragraphs 17, 27, 33 and 68(2) of Part 1 Schedule 32 and (xii) Part 2 of Schedule 32 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [68268]

Mr Blunt: All of the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act listed in the question relate to the increase in magistrates sentencing powers required to deliver the unimplemented "custody plus" sentence. The Government have considered whether to implement these provisions but have concluded that they remain unaffordable. The Government therefore propose to repeal the provisions in order to simplify the law.

Prison Standards

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on prison and probation services, if he will place in the Library a copy of any analytical reports used by the National Offender Management Service in determining the prison establishments most suitable for the present round of market testing. [69139]

Mr Blunt: To determine the prisons included in the competition announcement that I made on 13 July 2011 the following publicly available data was taken into account:

Prison category

Prison location (region).

The following internal metrics were also taken into account:

Prison size as defined by operational capacity in March 2010.

Direct cost per place as defined by operational capacity in March 2010. Direct costs are taken from 2009-10 outturns, with costs associated with unique services stripped out.

An internal assessment of the suitability for payment by results.

An internal assessment of the suitability for working prisons.

Latest estimates of maintenance necessary to be undertaken in the next ten years

Internal estimates of potential levels of inefficiency on a prison by prison basis used to estimate the potential savings which could be delivered as a result of competition.

I have included and placed in the Library a summary of all these metrics for the nine prisons competed, except the internal estimates of potential levels of inefficiency and the level of maintenance, because this data is commercial in confidence.

Table 1. Recommended candidates for prison competition

	Name	*Category*	*Op cap*	*Region*	*Cost per place (£)*	*Cluster suitable for PBR*	*Industrial prisons*	*Rationale for selection*
a	Lindholme—including Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre	Cat C	1,134	Yorkshire	18,608	Yes	Yes	1. Lindholme infrastructure allows re-role as industrial prison, given good infrastructure.
	Moorland	Cat C	779	Yorkshire	20,221	Yes	—	2. The cluster allows diverse prison system where providers may bid for entire package under PBR.
	Hatfield	Open	260	Yorkshire	20,221	Yes	—	3. New geographical area introduced. 4. Potential to attract competitive labour market rates.
b	Onley	Cat C	707	East Midlands	24,740	—	—	1. High potential for financial saving. 2. Introduces competitive pressure in geographical area with incumbent private providers.
	Coldingley	Cat C	513	South East	27,326	—	Yes	1. New geographical area introduced (South East).

Table 1: Recommended candidates for prison competition

	Name	*Category*	*Op cap*	*Region*	*Cost per place (£)*	*Cluster suitable for PBR*	*Industrial prisons*	*Rationale for selection*
								2. Sufficient infrastructure ensures every prisoner is able to work.
	The Wolds	Cat C	395	Yorkshire	23,651	—	—	1. Current contract expires January 2013. Needs to be re-competed.
c	Acklington	Cat C	946	North East	20,157	Yes	—	1. New geographical area introduced (North East).
	Castington	YOI	410	North East	35,987	Yes	—	2. Suitable for PBR as a cluster.
	Durham	Local	985	North East	23,379	Yes	—	3. Presents large savings potential including clustering.

Notes: Cost per place information is based on 2009-10 data. Lindholme maintenance costs are low until final two years. Castington maintenance data is forthcoming, as part of due diligence to be undertaken on whole package.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department or its agencies have for the future of HMP Brockhill and its surrounding estate; and if he will make a statement. [69140]

Mr Blunt: The closure of the Brockhill part of Hewell prison, is an important part of the Ministry of Justice's drive for greater efficiency by ensuring a modern, fit-for-purpose prison estate that can deliver high quality, cost-effective and secure regimes. This part of Hewell is in need of costly remedial work in the next 12 months, which is not currently financially viable.

A project team will work with the prison to begin the closure process. Once all prisoners and staff have left the Brockhill site it will be decommissioned. The Ministry is considering options for the disposal of the site and will seek to ensure it achieves best value for the taxpayer.

Prisoners: Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what arrangements are in place to ensure that prisoners from Wales are able to access Welsh and Welsh-language television and radio programmes when held in prisons outside Wales; [67776]

(2) what *(a)* educational, *(b)* recreational and *(c)* other information produced for sentenced or remanded prisoners is available in (i) a Welsh language version and (ii) foreign languages. [67783]

Mr Blunt: It is recognised that access to Welsh language television and radio is culturally important for Welsh speaking prisoners.

Prisoners on standard or enhanced level of the incentives and earned privileges scheme are eligible for access to in-cell television where available. Some prisons offer access to Welsh channels through digital TV or online. In prisons where these facilities are not available Welsh subtitles may be provided via teletext.

Prisoners in England may access Welsh radio where there is a signal, and with increasing digital capability access can be possible via the internet or television where available. There is currently no requirement for prison radio stations in England to broadcast in Welsh.

A National Offender Management Service Welsh Language Scheme has been drafted and will shortly be issued for consultation. The scheme will set the direction for the service in terms of access to the Welsh language, setting out what is possible within the constraints of the secure environment of a prison.

NOMS is committed to providing a fair service to all offenders. Where particular language needs are identified upon induction or raised by prisoners during their sentence, efforts are made to accommodate these. Some local and national prison documents, such as induction materials, are already available in a number of languages, including Welsh. When the need arises for additional material, prisons are able to access translation services. Within prison libraries there are reading materials and other recreational materials available in a variety of languages, including Welsh. The range and number of publications in different languages will differ according to the population of the prison.

The National Offender Management Service Welsh Language Scheme—shortly to be issued for consultation—will clarify the requirements on prisons in England and Wales to provide educational, recreational and other information in Welsh.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place in prisons to provide Welsh language support for religious needs of prisoners. [67782]

Mr Blunt: Chaplaincy teams in prisons in Wales are committed to meeting the religious needs of all prisoners, including through the Welsh language. All teams have access to Christian clergy who are able to conduct worship in Welsh. For other religions, networks exist to enable a relevant minister to be found. Chaplaincy leaflets setting out the programme of activities are produced in Welsh.

Provision for Welsh speaking prisoners held in prisons in England will be made on an as needs basis, as for prisoners who require religious provision in any other language.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Welsh-speaking prisoners are held in each institution in England and Wales; and how many of these are *(a)* sentenced adult male prisoners, *(b)* remanded adult male prisoners, *(c)* sentenced women prisoners, *(d)* remanded women prisoners, *(e)* sentenced young offenders and *(f)* remanded young prisoners. [67784]

Mr Blunt: This information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The facility exists within Prison-NOMIS (National Offender Management Information System) to record a prisoner's preferred language (spoken and written), but completion of the relevant field is not mandatory. The proportion of records completed in relation to preferred language is very low and of insufficient quality to make any estimate of the number of Welsh-speaking prisoners.

As part of the ongoing business support for the Prison-NOMIS application, establishments will continue to be reminded that non-mandatory fields should where possible hold information. It should be recognised, however, that this information is not a requisite for the reception and management of a prisoner.

It would entail disproportionate cost to request each prison to undertake a manual exercise to establish the number of Welsh-speakers held in their establishments and to break this down further as requested.

Prisons: Anaerobic Digestion

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to encourage the production of energy from prison waste through anaerobic digestion. [69229]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does encourage the production of energy from prison waste using a range of available technologies, including anaerobic digestion (AD). For example, an AD plant is in operation at Guys Marsh prison and the resultant bio-energy used to run a generator that supplements the power supply to the prison's kitchen complex and greenhouse. Additionally, the new prison being constructed at Featherstone, Staffordshire, will also incorporate a small-scale AD plant producing energy to supplement normal provision.

The Prison Service has had for some time, robust waste management practices embedded within prisons' day-to-day operations with the primary objective of minimising waste. Therefore, volumes of organic waste generated are, in most cases, insufficient to warrant the considerable capital outlay required for AD plant. Where prisons are identified as having a need for a sustainable solution for organic waste disposal, locally available facilities, such as AD or sealed container composting, are considered within the mix of responsible waste disposal options. For example, the new prison being constructed at Featherstone, Staffordshire, will incorporate a small-scale AD plant producing energy to supplement normal provision.

Prisons: Health Professions

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's minimum standards are for the ratio of *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* registered mental health nurses and *(c)* registered general nurses to inmates in privately-run prisons in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [68872]

Mr Blunt: There are no nationally set minimum standards for the ratio of medical work force to prisoners in private prisons. The medical work force deployed is dependant on the establishment's health needs assessment of the prisoners.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio is of health care professionals to inmates in each privately-run prison in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [68873]

Mr Blunt: NOMS does not collect information concerning the number of health care professionals that work in private prisons. It would incur a disproportionate cost in order to collect this information in order to be able to give a ratio of health care professionals to prisoners.

Prisons: Personal Income

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* financial education and *(b)* assistance with personal finance is provided in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [68944]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) works closely with DWP, the Money Advice Service, Unlock, the Legal Services Commission, CAB and others to ensure that financial management skills feature in a range of courses and other interventions available to prisoners.

On reception into custody, prisoners, including those on remand pending sentence, are helped and encouraged to take action to ensure that their financial affairs are placed in as stable a position as possible while they remain in custody. NOMS is working with Unlock and the major retail banks to make it easier for prisoners to obtain banking facilities. At governors' discretion, offenders in custody are permitted to carry out certain financial transactions to facilitate resettlement on release.

Prisons: Smoking

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to revise his policy on smoking in prisons in line with his duties as an employer under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to protect prison officers from second-hand smoke. [68772]

Mr Blunt: It is the policy of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) that prisoners over 18 are permitted to smoke in single cells or cells shared with smokers. This is in accordance with the Health Act 2006, which exempts prisoner cells from being smoke-free on the basis that a prisoner's cell is deemed to be their home.

However, NOMS recognises the potential risk to staff from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) and has issued guidance to staff on entering cells where a prisoner is, or has been, smoking. The guidance, if properly followed, minimises the risks of exposure to ETS by allowing sufficient ventilation of the cell before staff enter.

NOMS continues to keep this guidance under review, as it does with all health and safety matters, to ensure that the safety and health of staff is maintained and improved wherever possible.

Prisons: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on prison and probation services (England and Wales), (1) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into ways of reducing reoffending; and if he will make a statement; [68512]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the delivery of programmes by service providers on rehabilitation; and if he will make a statement. [68513]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has commissioned a wide range of research and assessment on reducing reoffending and the delivery of programmes which aim to rehabilitate offenders. Evaluation is conducted on a case-by-case basis.

Recent reports from the Ministry of Justice research programme can be found on the Ministry of Justice website via the following internet link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/index.htm

Remand in Custody: Children

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of children held in custody on remand were subsequently *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* given a community sentence in the most recent year for which figures are available. [68527]

Mr Blunt: The number and proportion of children remanded in custody at all courts in England and Wales who were subsequently acquitted or went on to receive a community sentence during 2010 (latest currently available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

The estimated number and percentage of juveniles[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted[3] or received a non-custodial sentence[4] at magistrates courts and the Crown court, England and Wales 2010

Final outcome	*Juveniles*	*Percentage of juveniles[6]*
Magistrates courts[5]		
Acquitted	623	32
Immediate custody	497	26
Non-custodial	802	42
Of which:		
Community sentence	486	25
Crown court		
Acquitted	187	18
Immediate custody	664	64
Non-custodial	190	18
Of which:		
Community sentence	139	13

The estimated number and percentage of juveniles[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted[3] or received a non-custodial sentence[4] at magistrates courts and the Crown court, England and Wales 2010

[1] Defined as being aged 10 to 17 at the date of appearance in court.

[2] Includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings at magistrates and the Crown court who may also have been given bail at some stage of those proceedings.

[3] Acquitted includes proceedings discontinued, discharged, withdrawn and dismissed at magistrates courts and acquitted and not tried at the Crown court.

[4] Non-custodial sentences include discharges, fines, community sentences, and a number of other sentences that do not involve incarceration.

[5] Magistrates courts figures exclude those committed for trial or sentence at the Crown court and those who failed to appear.

[6] Percentages presented here represent the proportions of all juveniles who were remanded in custody, excluding those who failed to appear and where the magistrates court committed the defendant for trial or sentence to the Crown court.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2. Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice

Reoffenders: South-east England

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for repeat offenders there were in *(a)* the south-east, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency in each of the last 10 years. [68402]

Mr Blunt: The table presents information on number of sentencing occasions for indictable offences for offenders dealt with by police forces in the south-east and by Kent police force in each year between 2001 and 2010, and the number and proportion of offenders who had at least one previous conviction or caution. The equivalent figures for Chatham and Aylesford constituency are not available as the data source used by the MOJ does not enable us to identify offenders who are resident in this area.

The figures are derived from the data used for chapter 7 of 'Criminal Justice Statistics: Quarterly updated to December 2010' which was published on 26 May 2011. The full report can be found at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice-stats/criminal-stats-quarterly-dec10.pdf

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of sentencing occasions for indictable offences for offenders[1] dealt with by police forces in the south-east region and in Kent, 2001-10, and the number involving offenders with previous convictions or cautions

										Sentencing occasions
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
South-east region[2]										
All offenders	34,571	35,404	35,497	34,495	34,846	34,196	35,958	38,681	38,578	39,921
Of which:										
Repeat offenders	30,320	31,515	31,465	30,656	31,144	30,438	32,106	34,714	34,712	35,900

Number of sentencing occasions for indictable offences for offenders[1] dealt with by police forces in the south-east region and in Kent, 2001-10, and the number involving offenders with previous convictions or cautions

										Sentencing occasions
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Percentage	87.7	89.0	88.6	88.9	89.4	89.0	89.3	89.7	90.0	89.9
Kent[3]										
All offenders	7,957	8,202	8,386	7,517	6,973	6,713	7,143	7,664	7,835	8,239
Of which:										
Repeat offenders	6,948	7,273	7,243	6,597	6,173	5,929	6,328	6,783	6,967	7,370
Percentage	87.3	88.7	86.4	87.8	88.5	88.3	88.6	88.5	88.9	89.5

[1] An offender may be counted more than once if he or she has been sentenced on more than one occasion during the period. The repeat offenders figures are counts of sentencing occasions for offenders who had at least one previous caution or conviction.

[2] The figures are counts of sentencing occasions for offences dealt with by police forces in the south-east region and includes some offenders living outside the south-east.

[3] The figures are counts of sentencing occasions for offences dealt with by Kent police force and includes some offenders living outside Kent.

Repossession Orders

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders for the repossession of homes in each ward in Dartford constituency were issued in each year between 1998 and 2010. [67990]

Mr Djanogly: The following tables show the numbers of claims leading to orders being made for the repossession of property in each ward in Dartford constituency by mortgage lenders in each year since 2000 and landlords in each year since 2003. Data for previous years are not available due to the lack of valid postcodes.

These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made. This is more accurate than the number of orders, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. It is also a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order, such as where borrowers hand the keys back to the lender. Also, not all possession orders result in repossession. Many orders are suspended and if the borrower complies with the repayment arrangements set out in the suspended order the property will not be repossessed.

Table 1: Number of mortgage[1] possession claims which have led to an order being made[2,3,4,5] in the wards of Dartford parliamentary constituency[6,7], 2000-10[8]

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Bean and Darenth	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	15	10	—	—
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	15	10	10	10
Castle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenhithe	—	—	—	—	10	20	35	25	20	20	10
Hartley and Hodsoll Street	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	19	—	—
Heath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Joyce Green	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	10	10	10	—
Joydens Wood	—	—	—	—	—	10	15	20	15	10	—
Littlebrook	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Longfield, New Barn and Southfleet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newtown	15	10	—	10	15	15	15	15	25	20	15
Princes	—	—	—	10	10	10	20	15	15	10	10
Stone	—	—	—	—	10	10	15	15	15	10	10
Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
Swanscombe	—	10	—	10	10	15	20	20	20	20	10
Town	—	—	—	—	—	15	15	15	10	10	—
West Hill	10	—	—	—	—	10	15	10	10	—	10
Wilmington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Number of mortgage[1] possession claims which have led to an order being made[2,3,4,5] in the wards of Dartford parliamentary constituency[6,7], 2000-10[8]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Dartford constituency total	95	80	70	75	125	170	230	195	195	155	125

[1] The mortgage data include all types of lenders.

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[3] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[4] The mortgage possession figures do not indicate how many houses have actually been repossessed through the courts. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

[5] The number of claims that lead to an order includes all claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is mad during the period.

6 The figures from 2000 up until the first quarter of 2010 (January to March) reflect the ward boundaries as of August 2009 and for the reset of 2010 the restructured ward boundaries as of August 2010.

[7] When interpreting these statistics please be mindful that the sum of the figures for the wards may be different to the total for Dartford constituency due to rounding and also because the ward boundaries may have been revised after the constituency boundaries have been fixed at the time of each general election.

[8] All figures are rounded to the nearest five and those with a value fellow eight are represented as '—'.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of landlord[1,2] possession claims which have led to an order being made[3,4,5,6] in the wards of Dartford parliamentary constituency[7,8] 2003-10[9]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bean and Darenth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenhithe	—	—	—	—	15	—	10	15
Hartley and Hodsoll Street	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Joyce Green	10	10	—	10	10	20	20	20
Joydens Wood	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Littlebrook	—	10	—	15	—	15	10	10
Longfield, New Barn and Southfleet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newtown	—	10	—	—	10	10	15	10
Princes	10	10	15	10	—	—	10	20
Stone	10	10	10	15	15	10	15	15
Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swanscombe	15	15	10	25	10	20	25	25
Town	—	10	10	10	—	—	10	—
West Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilmington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dartford constituency total	90	105	90	115	110	105	150	160

[1] The landlord data include all types of landlord whether social or private.

[2] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enable the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[3] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[4] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[5] The landlord possession figures do not indicate how many houses have actually been repossessed through the courts. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

[6] The number of claims that lead to an order includes all claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is made during the period.

[7] The figures from 2000 up until the first quarter of 2010 (January to March) reflect the ward boundaries as of August 2009 and for the rest of 2010 the restructured ward boundaries as of August 2010.

[8] When interpreting these statistics please be mindful that the sum of the figures for the wards may be different to the total for Dartford constituency due to rounding and also because the ward boundaries may have been revised after the constituency boundaries have been fixed at the time of each general election.

[9] All figures are rounded to the nearest five and those with a value below eight are represented as '—'.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Sentencing: Appeals

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many court cases a defendant who pleaded guilty subsequently appealed against the sentence passed in each of the last five years. [68621]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the number of appeals received against sentences dealt with in the Crown court and the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal. However, the central administrative databases for both courts do not store information concerning the plea of appellants in the original case. To obtain this information would require the manual inspection of court files held locally, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Statistics are published on the number of appeals received and dealt with against sentences in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010, in the Ministry of Justice's statistical bulletin "Judicial and Court Statistics", the most recent edition of which was published on 30 June 2011. The number of appeals against sentences dealt with in the Crown court can be found in table 4.10 and those dealt with in the Court of Appeal in table 7.6. The report is available on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-annual.htm

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each local authority area have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted under section (i) 8(1), (ii) 8(2), (iii) 8(3), (iv) 10, (v) 14, (vi) 15, (vii) 48, (viii) 49 and (ix) 50 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each year since the Act came into force. [69490]

Mr Blunt: A table of data showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for offences under sections 8, 10, 14, 15, 48, 49 and 50 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, by police force area, in England and Wales, from 2004 (commencement of the Act) to 2010 (latest available) has been placed in the House Library.

Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice. Prosecutions data are provided instead. Centrally held court proceedings data are not available at local authority area level and hence data have been provided by police force area.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Stalking: Harassment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to give probation trusts a duty to ensure that persons convicted of stalking and harassment are given a treatment programme. [68251]

Mr Blunt: There are no plans. Probation trusts are statutorily responsible for the supervision and management of offenders in the community who are subject to community orders, suspended sentence orders and who are released on licence.

The role of probation trusts includes the provision of accredited offending behaviour programmes and other interventions when included as a requirement of a community order or a licence in appropriate cases, including those convicted of stalking and/or harassment.

Suicide

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of websites promoting suicide; what assessment he has made of the trends in the number of such websites in the last five years; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such research. [69071]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the number of websites promoting suicide.

Victim Support Schemes: Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were referred to the Salvation Army's new trafficking victim support scheme; and by whom between 7 and 14 July 2011. [68834]

Mr Blunt: Between 7 and 14 July, six individuals were referred to the Government-funded support service for adult victims of trafficking, which is run by the Salvation Army. The referrals were made by police, charities and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the nationality was of each of the suspected victims of trafficking referred to in the Salvation Army's new trafficking victim support scheme between 7 and 14 July 2011; in which region each of the suspected victims was found; and which agency referred each case to the Salvation Army. [69121]

Mr Blunt: The following table sets out the information requested.

Nationality	*Region*	*Referring agency*
Slovakian	South East	Charity (Kent Community Organisation)
Vietnamese	West Midlands	Social Services (Youth Justice)
UK	West Midlands	Police
Irish	West Midlands	Police
Romanian	West Midlands	Health services
Slovakian	North West	Police
Czech	North West	Police
Lithuanian	Yorkshire	Police
Lithuanian	Yorkshire	Police
Nigerian	South East	Charity (NIA project)
Czech	South East	Police
Sierra Leonean	South East	Police
Vietnamese	East Midlands	Crown Prosecution Service

Young Offenders: Basic Skills

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what schemes his Department has put in place to offer life skills to young offenders. [67612]

Mr Blunt: Legislation in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 made local authorities responsible for securing suitable education and training for young people aged 10-17 in custody. This came into effect on 1 September 2010. The Act also contains duties on "home" local authorities to "take such steps as they consider appropriate to promote the person's fulfilment of his or her learning potential" while they are in custody, and to share information about the young person's education and any special educational needs they may have.

The delivery of youth justice in the community is devolved to local authority youth offending teams. A statutory function of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is to identify, make known and promote effective practice in youth justice. To this end the YJB published updated key elements of effective practice documents in 2008. These include the following themes: accommodation, planning, interventions and supervision, education, training and employment. Youth justice services are encouraged to make use of these documents in the design and delivery of their interventions.

Learning and skills for prisoners aged over 18 is jointly commissioned by the Skills Funding Agency and the National Offender Management Service—this includes social and life skills courses within the public sector secure estate in England for young offenders aged 18 to 20 years of age. The range of accredited courses offered is based upon assessed individual learning need. Some of the courses on offer include Preparation for Work; Assertiveness and Decision Making; Family Relationships; Budgeting and Money Management and Personal Development.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Media Ownership

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the advice received by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the basis of which the proposed acquisition of BSkyB by News Corporation was referred to Ofcom on plurality grounds only. [68318]

Vince Cable: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has published a significant amount of the advice that I received in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi/information-released

However, some of the most sensitive advice was withheld under various exemptions provided for under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am satisfied that it should continue to be so.

EDUCATION

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67560]

Tim Loughton: The Department's financial records show that since May 2010 there has been no payments for any subscriptions to Sky TV.

Cultural Education Review

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects the Henley Review of Cultural Education to report. [68281]

Mr Gibb: Darren Henley's Review of Cultural Education is due to report this autumn.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff his Department employed in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [68234]

Tim Loughton: The headcount for the Department in May 2010 was 2,622 (2,504 full-time equivalent (FTE)). The latest published headcount figure available (as at 31 July) is 2,585 (2,465.4 FTE).

For the Education Family workforce (the Department and its arm's length bodies) the total headcount has reduced from 9,522 in May 2010 to 8,080 in 30 June 2011 (latest published information).

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010; [67173]

(2) on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010; [67591]

(3) if he will consider keeping data on the number of times *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have declined a request for a meeting from an hon. Member of each political party. [67196]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), meets hon. Members of different political parties in a variety of forums which go beyond the meetings arranged by the Department for Education. Therefore, to provide the hon. Gentleman with accurate details of the number of meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010 would incur disproportionate cost.

It is always the wish of the Secretary of State for Education, and the rest of his ministerial team, wherever possible, to accept any meeting request from an hon. Member, irrespective of the political party to which they belong. Regrettably, due to diary pressures and business needs, it is not always possible to accommodate all meeting requests. To obtain accurate details of declined meeting requests would also incur disproportionate cost.

As there is no requirement for Departments to hold details of the number of meetings declined, there are no plans to collect this information or be able to release it in the future.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from the access to education advocate on abolition of the education maintenance allowance. [67881]

Mr Gibb: Between the date of his appointment, in December 2010, and the announcement of the 16-19 Bursary Fund in March 2011, the Advocate for Access to Education met regularly with Department for Education Ministers and officials to discuss financial support for young people. We took account of his work in designing the new 16-19 Bursary Fund, which schools and colleges will be able to use to support those students who most need financial assistance to continue in education or training post-16.

Education: Assessments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures are in place to ensure examination boards adhere strictly to Ofqual's code of practice regarding the role of scrutineers in the setting of exams. [68162]

Mr Gibb: Glenys Stacey, Ofqual's chief executive has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of the reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Glenys Stacey, dated 26 August 2011:

I am responding to your parliamentary question raised in respect of measures in place to ensure examinations boards adhere to our Code of Practice regarding the role of scrutineers in the setting of exams. You will be aware that the Secretary of State has asked Ofqual to respond to this question.

I can confirm that Ofqual and the regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland jointly publish the GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice (all of these are available on Ofqual's website for download). The Code states that:

1.11 The scrutineer is responsible for:

i. checking the final drafts of all question papers/tasks without reference to the mark schemes to ensure that the questions can be answered in the time allowed and that there are no errors and omissions;

ii. working through question papers, where appropriate;

iii. checking the mark scheme to ensure that the marks given are identical to those on the question paper;

iv. preparing a report for the awarding organisation officer.

Awarding organisations are responsible for following this Code of Practice. As part of Ofqual's regular monitoring work, various aspects of the Code are checked on the basis of risk, bearing in mind the need for our monitoring work to be proportionate.

Should awarding organisations not follow the Code of Practice, appropriate action in line with our legislative powers is put into place. This could include removal of awarding organisation status or removal of accreditation for the particular qualification. Any action taken is based on evidence and is particular to the issue being considered.

As you will also be aware, Ofqual have been alerted to concerns about examination errors in advance of and during the live examinations this summer. As a result of our concern regarding awarding organisation compliance to the Code of Practice, you will be aware that we have launched our Inquiry into examination errors and we have already invited you to submit evidence to the Inquiry if you wish. The Inquiry will take into account information and views we have already received from sources including candidates, schools and colleges, parents and student representatives and will also be gathering information from a list of interested and concerned stakeholders such as yourself.

It is intended that we will complete the Inquiry and publish our report by the end of the year.

I hope this information answers your query. However, if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Financial Services: Education

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the level of financial education in schools. [68023]

Mr Gibb: Ofsted's most recent inspection report on personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, published in July 2010, was based on visits to 165 schools between September 2006 and July 2009. Ofsted found that the economic well-being and financial capability strand (introduced in September 2008) was still in its early stages and that achievement in this area was less strong than in other areas of PSHE. However, they also found that students in schools that were successfully delivering personal finance education showed a good understanding of personal finance, used financial terms correctly and were able to apply their knowledge in making financial decisions.

The report can be found at

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/personal-social-health-and-economic-education-schools

An internal review of PSHE education was launched on 21 July 2011. Its aim is to determine how to support schools to improve the quality of PSHE teaching, while giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education. Details can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1759&external=no&menu=1

Forced Marriage

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Eighth Report of the Home Affairs Committee, Session 2010-12, on Forced Marriage, HC 880, paragraph 27, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that schools and academies effectively and appropriately respond to young women at risk of forced marriage. [67833]

Tim Loughton: The Government provide considerable support to safeguard children from the risk of forced marriage, which is a serious form of child abuse. The joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), which was launched in January 2005, provides advice to teachers in schools. The FMU produced statutory guidance on forced marriage in 2008 (revised 2010); revised multi-agency practice guidelines on handling cases of forced marriage in 2009; and supplementary guidelines on handling cases of forced marriage involving persons with learning disabilities in 2010. In addition to these guidance documents which are targeted at frontline practitioners and volunteers, the FMU provide a helpline to support victims and potential victims of forced marriage.

The Government firmly believe that schools are best placed to assess which materials or strategies might be useful to help children who may be vulnerable to forced marriage. All schools have clear responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils. The inter-agency guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)" and guidance to schools and FE colleges, "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2006)" set out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Free School Meals

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on allowing local authorities to provide automatic entitlement to free school meals for eligible pupils without recourse to a separate application; and if he will make a statement. [68015]

Mr Gibb: It is not possible to provide automatic entitlement to free school meals (FSM) for eligible pupils. Until a request for FSM is made, a school or local authority would not know which pupils were from households receiving an eligible benefit, and are therefore entitled to FSM.

As set out in legislation, eligibility for FSM is reliant on two things: (1) the parent (or child) being in receipt of one of the eligible benefits; and (2) a request for FSM being made by the parent or child.

Without the provision of personal information, either paper proof of receipt of benefits or personal information to enable a check to be made using the Online Free School Meal Eligibility Checking Service (ECS), there would be no way to identify eligible pupils.

The ECS reduces the burdens on schools associated with FSM administration, makes it much easier for parents to apply for FSM and reduces the stigma that can be associated with applying for them.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals who take up their entitlement; and if he will make a statement. [68016]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to increasing take-up of free school meals (FSM) for those pupils who are entitled to them.

The Department has streamlined the process for applying for free school meals by developing an online eligibility checking system (ECS). This allows local authorities to quickly check data held by other Government Departments (DWP, HMRC and the Home Office) to establish a family's eligibility for free school meals. We are working with local authorities to increase the use of this resource which, as well as reducing bureaucracy and cost for local authorities, is also encouraging more parents to sign up their children for a free school lunch. For those authorities that choose to use it, the ECS has a service which allows parents to check their own eligibility and to apply on line for FSM.

The Government have also commissioned the School Food Trust to carry out further work to improve the take-up of healthy school food, and specifically to increase take-up of free school meals to ensure children from the most deprived families receive at least one good meal a day.

The trust will also continue its ongoing work to provide advice, support and resources to help schools and local authorities increase free school meal registration and take-up. In particular, the trust's free school meal support project will provide support and resources to schools in deprived areas to help increase free school meal registration and take-up. The project will initially target those schools with a significant gap between free school eligibility and take-up, working with them to improve registration; for example, by increasing online free school meal applications.

GCE A-level

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher were from each *(a)* socio-economic and *(b)* ethnic group in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [69125]

Mr Gibb: It is not possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost. These data are not readily available on the National Pupil Database (NPD) in a pre-defined form, and would need to be calculated, processed and merged onto the NPD. This analysis and the time needed to quality assure the results could be completed only at a disproportionate cost. Data on socio-economic status are not available.

Higher Education

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the proportion of GDP attributable to *(a)* graduates and *(b)* university teaching. [67091]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

We do not have estimates of impact on GDP of either graduates or university teaching specifically.

Universities UK has produced a series of reports on the impact of the higher education (HE) sector as a whole on the UK economy. Its most recent report[1] estimated that in the academic year 2007/08, in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), the HE sector contributed over £31 billion to UK GDP as a result of both direct and indirect effects. This approximates to around 2.5% of GDP at that time.

Other research has looked at the positive impact that graduates can have on a country's growth; for example, a 1996 study found that a 1% increase in tertiary human capital stock growth was estimated to be associated with a 1.1 percentage point increase in GDP growth rates in OECD countries[2].

Intellectual Property: Education

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will issue guidance to schools on the teaching of intellectual property law. [67270]

Mr Gibb: We have no plans to issue guidance on intellectual property law to schools. We are currently reviewing the national curriculum in a way that is consistent with our aim of reducing the amount of central Government prescription about what happens in the classroom. Decisions about future guidance to schools relating to the subjects they should teach will be made following that review.

At present, pupils learn about our overarching system of law and justice as part of the citizenship programme of study. Artistic and intellectual copyright is covered in the music curriculum, where it arises in relation to pupils' and others' compositions, and to music piracy.

Languages: Teachers

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of teachers of *(a)* French, *(b)* German and *(c)* Mandarin that will be required by schools by 2015. [67268]

Mr Gibb: The number of teachers that schools employ in future years will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate. For funding purposes, the Department has produced overall estimates of teaching posts in state schools and academies in England.

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[1] The Impact of Universities on the UK economy: 4th Report, UUK (2009).

[2] Gemmell, N. (1996), "Evaluating the impact of human capital stocks and accumulation on economic growth: some new evidence", Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, 58, 9-28.

The Government do not produce estimates for the future numbers of teaching posts in particular subjects. Estimates for the proportion of teachers working in secondary schools who will be qualified in different subjects are however produced as part of the Department for Education's teacher supply and demand modelling process.

Estimates for the future number of specialist modern language teachers in state funded secondary schools indicate that there will need to be an increase of about 600 by 2015. This is in the context of an expected decrease in the overall number of secondary teachers as a result of the ongoing decline in secondary pupil numbers.

Separate forecasts have not been made for each type of language teacher. For the purposes of teacher supply modelling, all modern languages are treated as one subject category.

Information on the qualifications and deployment of teachers in the secondary sector was collected in the annual School Workforce Census, which took place in November 2010 for the first time. The number of teachers reported to be teaching modern languages in November 2010 is given in the following table.

Number (headcount) of modern language teachers[1] in all publicly funded secondary schools. Position in November 2010: Coverage: England

Subject	*Headcount of in-service teachers*	*Of these, teachers holding a relevant[2] post A-level qualification*
All modern languages	19,000	15,200
Of which:		
French	14,700	11,300
German	5,700	3,900
Spanish	6,400	3,400
Other modern languages	3,300	1,100

[1] Teachers were counted once against each subject that they were teaching, regardless of the amount of time they spend teaching the subject.

[2] A full list of what was deemed as a 'relevant' qualification subject for each curriculum subject taught can be found on the School Workforce Statistical First Release website.

[3] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Base:
158,004 teachers to years 7-13 (unweighted headcount)
Source:
School Workforce Census

The number of teachers delivering sessions in Mandarin is not collected centrally. There are currently no initial teacher training courses which specialise in Mandarin only.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps his Department is taking to assist schools to identify and support girls at risk of *(a)* relationship abuse, *(b)* rape, *(c)* forced marriage, *(d)* sexual harassment, *(e)* female genital mutilation and *(f)* other violence; [67828]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that students affected by *(a)* relationship abuse, *(b)* rape, *(c)* forced marriage, *(d)* sexual harassment and *(e)* female genital mutilation have access to specialist support in schools; [67830]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to provide assistance to young people who are not in formal education who are affected by violence against women and girls, including *(a)* relationship abuse, *(b)* rape, *(c)* forced marriage, *(d)* sexual harassment and *(e)* female genital mutilation to access specialist support. [67832]

Tim Loughton: The Government provide considerable support to assist schools in identifying and supporting pupils at risk of abuse. All schools have clear responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils. The Government believe that schools are best placed to assess which materials or strategies might be useful to help their pupils, who may be vulnerable to particular types of harm.

The Department for Education works closely with the Home Office, Department of Health and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on these issues. Together we have produced a number of multi-agency guidelines for a broad range of practitioners to help them when working with young people who are affected by these forms of abuse, whether or not they are in formal education. The Government have also committed to developing an action plan to tackle child sexual exploitation to be published in the autumn.

In addition, the inter-agency guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010)" and guidance to schools and FE colleges, "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2006)" set out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. These documents act as signposts to other guidance about specific forms of abuse.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that primary schools and secondary maintained schools and academies provide education for students on *(a)* relationship abuse, *(b)* rape, *(c)* forced marriage, *(d)* sexual harassment and *(e)* female genital mutilation. [67829]

Mr Gibb: The personal well-being strand of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education provides a framework for schools to teach about these issues as part of sex and relationships education (SRE).

The Department's guidance, to which all schools must have regard in their teaching of SRE, sets out how SRE should prepare young people for adult life. It includes, for example, developing positive values and a moral framework; understanding the consequences of their actions and behaving responsibly within relationships; knowing how the law applies to sexual relationships; and avoiding exploitation and pressure.

Schools will teach a range of issues within SRE, and teaching professionals can be trusted to make appropriate judgments about how best to meet the needs of their pupils. Schools need to have the flexibility to decide on such matters for themselves so that they take account of the views of parents, and reflect the ethos of the school and the nature of the local community.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to provide education for young people who are not in formal education on violence against women and girls, including *(a)* relationship abuse, *(b)* rape, *(c)* forced marriage, *(d)* sexual harassment and *(e)* female genital mutilation. [67831]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of the local authority or school that has commissioned alternative provision for a pupil to determine the details of what should be covered in the curriculum for that pupil. Where a pupil has behavioural problems, and more particularly where they have a history of violence, the school or local authority may decide that it is appropriate for them to have Personal, Social and Health Education lessons and that those lessons should include these issues.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons his Department is conducting its review of personal, social, health and economic education and sex and relationships education separately from its review of the national curriculum. [67834]

Mr Gibb: The review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, including sex and relationship education, is being carried out separately from the national curriculum review because PSHE education is not a national curriculum subject. Both reviews share our aim to free up teachers, giving them greater control over what is taught and allowing them the scope to design and teach a curriculum that best meets the needs of their pupils.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the views of interested parties are considered as part of its review of personal, social, health and economic education and sex and relationships education. [67835]

Mr Gibb: As part of its review of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, the Department will consult with a number of interested parties including campaign groups, subject associations, voluntary bodies, teachers and parents. Written evidence to the review can be submitted via the DfE consultation website at:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Government's document entitled Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls, page 12, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that all schools participate in achieving the Government's objective of improving the teaching of sexual consent within the curriculum. [67836]

Mr Gibb: The personal well-being strand of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education provides a framework for schools to teach about sexual consent as part of sex and relationships education (SRE).

We are conducting an internal review of PSHE education to look at how schools can be supported to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching, including strengthening the priority of the teaching of sexual consent.

Details of the review can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations

Postgraduate Education

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of students educated at *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools who will graduate from PGCE courses in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2014. [67869]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not available.

Postgraduate Education: Fees and Charges

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on tuition fees for PGCE courses in core subjects within the English Baccalaureate in each of the next three years. [67870]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has recently published its strategy for initial teacher training, 'Training Our Next Generation of Outstanding Teachers', which was agreed with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. The strategy contains proposals for the funding of initial teacher training courses from 2012/13 onwards, including for subjects in the English Baccalaureate. The Department for Education is proposing bursaries of up to £20,000 in 2012/13 to encourage the best graduates into teaching and support them during their training. The most generous bursaries are in mathematics, science and modern languages, which are core English Baccalaureate subjects. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the House Libraries.

Pupil Exclusions

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children were *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently excluded in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [68880]

Mr Gibb: Information on the proportion of pupils with permanent and fixed period exclusions by local authority in 2009/10 is published in tables 17 and 18 of the Statistical First Release 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2009/10' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001016/index.shtml

Information on the proportion of pupils with permanent and fixed period exclusions by local authority in 2008/09 is published in tables 17 and 18 of the Statistical First Release 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2008/09' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000942/index.shtml

Information on the proportion of pupils with permanent and fixed period exclusions by local authority in 2007/08 is published in tables 17 and 18 of the Statistical First Release 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2007/08' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Information on the proportion of pupils with permanent and fixed period exclusions by local authority in 2006/07 is published in tables 12 and 13 of the Statistical First Release 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

Information on the proportion of pupils with permanent and fixed period exclusions by local authority in 2005/06 is published in the Statistical First Release 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England 2005/06' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

Information on fixed period exclusions in 2005/06 is available for secondary schools only.

Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children with statements of special educational needs were *(a)* temporarily excluded and *(b)* permanently excluded in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [68879]

Mr Gibb: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Runaway Children

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will review the Young Runaways Action Plan. [68856]

Tim Loughton: There are no plans to review the Young Runaways Action Plan, which was published by the previous Government in June 2008.

I have, however, already committed to reviewing the statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care, which provides the main framework for local responses to these issues. The Department is also leading on the development of an action plan for tackling child sexual exploitation, which will be published in the autumn. That action plan will take full account of the strong link between children going missing and children suffering from sexual exploitation.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67147]

Mr Gibb: Yes, officials of this Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Schools: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* entered mainly CSE examinations, *(b)* entered mainly GCE O-Level examinations and *(c)* entered no public examinations in the fifth year or year 11 in each year since 1981. [65077]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not available.

Schools: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the school league tables for *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-levels by individual examination board in the latest period for which figures are available. [67949]

Mr Gibb: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Transport

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received regarding changes to home to school transportation schemes. [68120]

Tim Loughton: The Department regularly receives correspondence from parents, local authorities, dioceses and other stakeholder groups regarding changes to home to school transport. A working group drawn from local authorities and diocese representatives has met on a number of occasions to take forward the remit of the review.

Teachers: English Baccalaureate

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of teachers trained to teach English Baccalaureate subjects. [66939]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Information on the qualifications and deployment of teachers in the secondary sector is collected in the new School Workforce Census, which took place in November 2010. The School Workforce Census Statistical First Release provides a head count of teachers to year groups 7 to 13 by subject in Table 12 and the proportions of teachers with a relevant post A-level qualification in the subjects they taught to year groups 7 to 13, split by subject, in Table 13.

The following table summarises the number of teachers of English Baccalaureate subjects, and the proportion with a relevant post A-level qualification in the subject taught:

Teachers of English baccalaureate subjects[1] in publicly-funded secondary schools (head count) to year groups 7 to 13 in 2010, and the proportions with a relevant post A-level qualification[2, 3] in the subject, November 2010, England

Subject[1]	*Total head count (thousand)*	*Any relevant post A level qualification 3 (percentage)*
Mathematics	33.0	74.0
English	36.6	79.6
Combined/general science[4]	33.3	88.6
Physics[4]	5.6	68.6
Chemistry[4]	6.7	72.7
Biology[4]	8.4	88.4
History	15.0	75.5
Geography	13.5	72.0
French	14.7	76.6
German	5.7	68.5
Spanish	6.4	53.2

Teachers of English baccalaureate subjects[1] in publicly-funded secondary schools (head count) to year groups 7 to 13 in 2010, and the proportions with a relevant post A-level qualification[2, 3] in the subject, November 2010, England

Subject[1]	*Total head count (thousand)*	*Any relevant post A level qualification 3 (percentage)*
Other modern languages	3.3	33.5
Classics[5]	0.6	48.3

[1] Teachers are counted once against each subject that they are teaching. Head counts are used, so a teacher teaching French and German would be counted once in each. In the science subjects, the teacher will be counted under the subject as marked on their timetable—if a teacher is marked as teaching physics then they will be counted under Physics only, whereas if they are marked as teaching physics and combined/general science they will be counted once against each subject. The 33,300 combined/general science teachers are teachers with combined/general science on their timetables; the figure does not include physics, biology and chemistry teachers unless they are teaching it as an additional subject and is marked as such on their timetables.

[2] A full list of what was deemed as a 'relevant' qualification subject for each curriculum subject taught can be found on the SFR home page.

[3] Includes all qualifications at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 4 and above.

[4] Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry, or physics are qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Classics includes classics, classical Greek, classical Hebrew and Latin.

[6] Not all schools were able to submit curriculum information, and not all qualifications returns were complete. Qualifications information was either not provided, or the subject field was missing for 12% of the teachers in schools submitting curriculum data.

Note:

Percentages are row percentages, and based on the number of teachers for whom curriculum and qualifications information was provided.

Source:

School Workforce Census, SFR Table 13.

A full list of subjects and the proportion of teachers with a relevant qualification is available in Table 13 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Teachers: Pensions

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which pension funds managing teachers' pension schemes were in *(a)* deficit and *(b)* surplus on the latest date for which figures are available; what the size was of any such deficit or surplus; and whether this will affect the rate of employer contributions to pensions for academies. [68806]

Mr Gibb: The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is an unfunded scheme and consequently there are no investments to manage. Employer and employee contributions rates are generally set following periodic valuations of the TPS by the Government Actuary, although the Department is currently consulting on an increase in the employee contribution rate in 2012-13 to take account of recommendations by the Independent Public Service Pension Commission. This will not affect the contribution rate paid by all TPS employers, including academies, which is currently 14.1%.

Teachers: Wirral

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers *(a)* were and *(b)* are to be employed in schools in Wirral in the financial year (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [67993]

Mr Gibb: There were 3,040 full-time equivalent teachers in service in publicly funded schools in Wirral local authority in November 2010. The source used is the School Workforce Census, No future estimates have been made centrally.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Access to Education Advocate

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the access to education advocate since the advocate's appointment on *(a)* the increase in university tuition fees, *(b)* the National Scholarship Fund, *(c)* outreach funding, *(d)* the Office of Fair Access, *(e)* the education maintenance allowance and its replacement and *(f)* other issues relating to access to education. [67876]

Mr Willetts: The right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) had nine meetings with myself and the BIS ministerial team during his time as Advocate for Access to Education. He completed the six-month role on 30 June. During these discussions the issues of university tuition fees, the National Scholarship Fund, outreach funding, the Office of Fair Access, the education maintenance allowance and its replacement and other issues relating to education were covered. The Advocate's Report was published on 21 July 2011.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the date was of each meeting he has had with the access to education advocate since the post was created. [67877]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and I together met with the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), during his time as Advocate for Access to Education, on two occasions. These were Monday, 10 January and Monday, 4 April.

I also met with the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) on Thursday, 27 January; Monday, 18 April; Wednesday, 25 May; and Wednesday, 7 July.

In addition, the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes), met with the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) on Monday, 10 January; Thursday,27 January; and Monday, 9 May.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department support the work of the access to education advocate. [67878]

Mr Willetts: Two members of BIS staff supported the work of the Advocate for Access to Education. One was a full-time member of staff and one was part time (0.5).

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* travel, *(b)* office space, *(c)* staff time and *(d)* communications in supporting the work of the access to education advocate. [67879]

Mr Willetts: To support my right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) in his role as Advocate for Access to Education, BIS spent *(a)* £680.84 on travel; *(b)* BIS provided him with a desk and a phone line at no additional cost to the Department as this was available within our normal capacity; *(c)* he was assigned the services of two BIS officials—one full-time and one part time—the approximate employment costs for whom were £28,000 (1.0) and £14,500 (0.5) respectively for the six month duration of the role which was completed on 30 June; *(d)* communications in supporting the Advocate role were covered by the same full-time member of the support staff.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to enable the access to education advocate to answer parliamentary questions. [69007]

Mr Willetts: My right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) was asked by the Prime Minister to undertake the role of Advocate for Access to Education from 1 January 1 to 30 June 2011. This work has now been completed.

Apprentices

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* completed (i) by apprentices of each sex and (ii) by apprentices formerly in receipt of free school meals in each (A) sector and (B) region in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [67887]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* I have made final full year data showing apprenticeship framework starts and achievements by region and sector subject area by gender for 2007-08 to 2009-10 available in the Libraries of the House.

Information is not available on the number of apprentices who were in receipt of free school meals. However, we do record information for those learners that attract a funding uplift, predominantly on the basis of living in a deprived area based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

In 2009/10, 85,800 (31%) learners starting an apprenticeship programme attracted a funding uplift.

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts by parliamentary constituency is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Business: Research

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about Government support for research and development activities in UK companies. [68836]

Mr Willetts: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and discuss a wide range of topics, most notably around the Government's growth agenda, given that innovation is a key driver of growth.

This Government recognise the importance of research and development (R&D) activities in UK companies and this Department is working closely with HM Treasury to improve the climate in this area through a number of interventions, such as improvements to R&D tax credits, including increases to the rate of relief for small and medium-sized enterprises (subject to state aid approval), and the implementation of a patent box. We have also taken forward a number of actions via the spending review and this has included ring-fencing science and research programme funding and establishing a national network of technology and innovation centres.

Later this year, we will publish an Innovation and Research Strategy which will explore the roles of knowledge creation, business investment, skills and training, and the public sector in innovation and growth performance.

Care Homes: Ownership

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the accuracy of information held by the Land Registry on the ownership of care homes in England and Wales; [69158]

(2) if he will take steps to improve the accuracy of the information held by the Land Registry on the ownership of care homes run by Southern Cross; and if he will make a statement. [69159]

Mr Davey: The Land Registry creates and maintains a register of title to land in England and Wales. The register reflects the legal documents of title submitted to the Registry, and specifically records the ownership information contained in those documents. This question relates to care home ownership, and in that context, no-one has questioned or challenged the accuracy of any ownership information, therefore no assessment has been carried out.

The register of title does not record the use to which the land is put. It is therefore impossible to ascertain from the register whether any particular property is being used as a care home.

Companies House: Internet

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many annual returns were lodged with Companies House using web filing on a *(a)* Monday, *(b)* Tuesday, *(c)* Wednesday, *(d)* Thursday, *(e)* Friday, *(f)* Saturday and *(g)* Sunday in each of the last three tax years; and if he will consider staffing the web filing helpdesk on Sundays. [68257]

Mr Davey: The number of annual returns (form AR01) lodged with Companies House via the Web Filing facility on *(a)* Monday, *(b)* Tuesday, *(c)* Wednesday, *(d)* Thursday, *(e)* Friday, *(f)* Saturday, and *(g)* Sunday is as follows.

Day	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Monday	345,370	335,248	340,287
Tuesday	322,952	340,548	350,705
Wednesday	293,962	315,800	324,262
Thursday	275,682	340,548	320,389
Friday	258,871	267,522	277,190
Saturday	50,276	47,248	50,574
Sunday	22,151	46,924	55,607

The staffing of Companies House's Web Filing Help Desk is an operational matter for the Registrar of Companies; I have been advised by the Registrar that while he does not have any current plans to staff the Help Desk on Sundays the situation is constantly monitored.

Companies: Overseas Trade

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the corporate governance and social responsibilities of companies listed on the London Stock Exchange but which trade in or are registered in countries not party to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. [67475]

Mr Davey: The Government encourage all UK-registered multinationals fully to respect the OECD Guidelines and other agreed standards and voluntary instruments for responsible business conduct, such as the UN Global Compact and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and to comply with their obligations under the laws of the countries in which they operate.

Companies registered outside the UK must comply with the EU Company Reporting Directive, which includes providing a corporate governance statement, to obtain a standard listing on the London Stock Exchange. To obtain a premium listing, they must meet the "comply or explain" standard of the UK Corporate Governance Code. The listing regime was amended in April 2010 to provide investor confidence that UK and overseas companies enjoying the benefits of a London listing are subject to the same levels of corporate governance obligations.

Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the findings of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on the Which? super-complaint on card payment surcharges; and what steps he plans to take to implement the OFT's recommendations. [67679]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

In its report on card surcharges published in June 2011, the Office of Fair Trading recommended that the Government introduce measures to prohibit retailers from imposing surcharges for payments made by debit card. There are a number of ways of implementing the report's recommendations. The Government are considering the report and will respond to the Office of Fair Trading in due course.

In the meantime, the Office of Fair Trading is taking action to ensure that consumers are given clear information on surcharges that apply to all forms of payment. Some retailers are already changing their practices, and the Office of Fair Trading will consider taking enforcement action against those retailers who do not do so.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 173W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67932]

Mr Davey: The photovoltaic components installed on the roof of the Department's headquarters building, 1-19 Victoria street, London were manufactured in China, and Japan and assembled in the Czech Republic.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) used a Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) grant to fund the installation of the photovoltaics. As a result, the Department had to use one (or more) of the framework suppliers and products that appeared on the LCBP phase 2 product list, all of which were selected following the *Official Journal of the European Union* tender. This restriction meant that BIS could not stipulate that products selected for 1 Victoria street were manufactured in the UK.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68764]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills received 1,168 letters from hon. Members in June 2011.

Mobile Phones

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many mobile telephones and BlackBerrys were provided to staff in his Department between June 2001 and May 2002, and what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* line rental, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* purchase of such telecommunications equipment. [68325]

Mr Davey: No BlackBerrys were purchased between June 2001 and May 2002. No records are available detailing the provision of mobile phones or line rental costs for that period. The Department does not take out insurance on the mobile phone handsets it purchases.

Publicity

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the UK photo marketing industry on his policy on the award of public sector contracts for the provision of identity photographs. [69192]

Mr Davey: There have been no discussions.

Redundancy

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67817]

Mr Davey: The Department ran a voluntary exit scheme in September-October 2010, at a total cost of £27,169,651. In February 2011 the Department launched a voluntary redundancy scheme that is still ongoing, in respect of which the 2010/11 accounts contained an accrual of £9 million for costs that were incurred in the financial year and, in addition, a provision of £5.9 million against expected future costs.

Training

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on training for Ministers since May 2010; and what training was provided. [67816]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* BIS has spent a total of £2,800 on providing training since May 2010 to help Ministers undertake their official duties.

Education: English Language

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the net saving to the Exchequer of proposed changes to the English for speakers of other languages provision. [65103]

Mr Hayes: As part of the spending review we had to take tough decisions about where public investment should be focussed to ensure that we can maximise its impact.

As set out in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (November, 2010) full Government subsidy will be focussed on basic literacy and numeracy qualifications for adults of all ages and first full level 2 or level 3 qualifications for young adults. In line with the Government agenda to support unemployed people into work, full Government subsidy will also be available for units and full qualifications for unemployed people in receipt of benefits conditional on them seeking or preparing for work. The Government will continue to invest in training outside of areas where full subsidy is available, but the costs will be shared between the Government and the learner or employer.

On the basis that public funding should not be used to substitute employer investment in training, we will no longer fund English for speakers of other languages delivered in the workplace.

From the 2011/12 academic year we have introduced a single adult skills budget. This will provide further education colleges and training organisations with the flexibility to offer the range and balance of programmes, from basic skills to higher-level skills, in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of learners, employers and communities (classroom, workshop, online and in the workplace).

European Space Agency

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what preparations his Department is making for the European Space Agency Ministerial Meeting in November 2012. [67615]

Mr Willetts: The UK Space Agency has a plan of action for the ministerial meeting involving consultation with industry, academia and the Space Leadership Council. We are influencing the European Space Agency's thinking and will prioritise its eventual proposals with respect to both their scientific excellence and potential to enhance economic growth.

Flexible Working: Research

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission research on the effects of *(a)* flexible working and *(b)* extended parental leave on the viability of small and medium-sized enterprises. [67864]

Mr Davey: The Modern Workplaces consultation included impact assessments on the proposals to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees, and create a system of flexible parental leave. The consultations and impact assessments were published and have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

During the consultation period we sought views and evidence from business on the effects of these proposals on their business. We met several small businesses and their representatives and widely encouraged small and medium-sized enterprises to respond directly to the consultation.

The consultation has now closed. We will revise the impact assessments in light of the responses we received and publish the revised assessments alongside the Government response to the consultation.

Foreign Investment in UK

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* size and *(b)* share of foreign direct investment from other EU member states in (i) the latest period for which figures are available, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2000, (iv) 1995, (v) 1990, (vi) 1985 and (vii) 1981; and if he will make a statement. [66958]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The following table shows the net book value of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the UK from EU member states as a proportion of total inward FDI for the years requested, where data are available. Data are not available for 1981 and 1985. Data is not available on a consistent EU27 basis. Therefore 1990 and 1995 data relate only to those 15 member states which had acceded to the EU by 1995.

£ million

	1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2009*
All inward FDI to UK	105,760	128,885	293,949	488,212	653,591
Inward FDI—EU to UK	33,707	43,493	136,924	244,392	351,544
EU to UK FDI—percentage share of all inward FDI	31.9	33.7	46.6	50.1	53.8

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the independent farming regulation task force's recommendations on reform of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority as part of his Department's review of Employment Law. [69120]

Mr Davey: The Government are considering the recommendations made by the independent Task Force on Farming Regulation and will publish an initial response this autumn and a final response early in 2012. The response will take account of other reviews, including the Employment Law Review.

Officials in this Department are also working closely with their counterparts in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the review of Government enforcement of workplace rights, which forms part of the Employment Law Review.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the reports he has received from the Government's Advocate for Access to Education, including letters of guidance for the Director of Fair Access, as set out in paragraph 5.30 of the higher education white paper; and whether he plans to publish the Advocate's final report. [64575]

Mr Willetts: Simon Hughes has now completed his work as Advocate for Access to Education and has submitted his report to the Prime Minister. It was published on 21 July.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pupils from each ethnic group were admitted to *(a)* the University of Oxford, *(b)* the University of Cambridge and *(c)* other Russell Group universities in the last year for which figures are available. [68682]

Mr Willetts: The number of UK-domiciled young (aged under 21) full-time first degree entrants to Russell Group universities, the university of Oxford and the university of Cambridge are shown by ethnic group in the table. Figures are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

UK-domiciled young[1] full-time first degree entrants to Russell Group universities, the university of Oxford and the university of Cambridge by ethnic group. Academic year 2009/10

Ethnic group	*Russell Group*	*Of which: Oxford*	*Of which: Cambridge*
White	56,235	2,305	2,310
Black	1,125	25	25
Asian	6,000	170	235
White	2,220	125	110
Other	460	10	15
All ethnic groups[2]	66,040	2,630	2,695

[1] Covers entrants aged under 21.
[2] Excludes entrants whose ethnicity was classified as not known, information refused or missing.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will list the 30 universities or higher education institutions with the highest *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of students from socio-economic groups four to seven; and if he will make a statement. [69049]

Mr Willetts: The 30 English higher education institutions with the highest proportion and number of UK-domiciled young full-time first degree entrants from socio-economic groups four to seven are shown in tables 1 and 2 respectively. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators in higher education and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from April 2012. More information on the Performance Indicators can be found at this link to the HESA website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2072&Itemid=141

Socio-economic information was known for 80.2% of young full-time first degree entrants to English higher education institutions in 2009/10. For each institution, the proportion of entrants from socio-economic groups four to seven is calculated based only on those with known social background.

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] full-time first degree entrants from socio-economic groups four to seven, academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage from socio-economic groups four to seven*
The University of Greenwich	55.1
The University of Bradford	52.2
Harper Adams University College	51.8
The University of Wolverhampton	48.8
Newman University College	46.6
The University of Bolton	45.8
London Metropolitan University	44.9
Middlesex University	44.4
University of Bedfordshire	43.2
The University of East London	43.1
The University of Westminster	42.6
Birmingham City University	42.1
The University of Sunderland	41.9
The University of Teesside	41.5
Oxford Brookes University	41.2
Edge Hill University	41.0
Staffordshire University	40.3
The University of Huddersfield	40.2
London South Bank University	39.8
The School of Pharmacy	39.8
University of Hertfordshire	39.5
University Campus Suffolk	39.4
The University of Central Lancashire	39.0
Kingston University	38.9
St Mary's University College, Twickenham	38.7
Anglia Ruskin University	38.6
The City University	38.6
University College Birmingham	38.5
De Montfort University	38.5
University of Cumbria	38.4

[1] Covers entrants aged under 21.
Note:
Percentages in the table are given to one decimal place.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators In Higher Education

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest number of UK-domiciled young[1] full-time first degree entrants from socio-economic groups four to seven, academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Number from socio-economic groups four to seven*
The Manchester Metropolitan University	1,605
Sheffield Hallam University	1,565
The Nottingham Trent University	1,480
De Montfort University	1,320
University of Hertfordshire	1,235
Leeds Metropolitan University	1,155
Liverpool John Moores University	1,140
Kingston University	1,090
The University of Greenwich	1,075
The University of Manchester	1,040
The University of Portsmouth	1,030
The University of Central Lancashire	1,025
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	1,025
University of the West of England, Bristol	980
The University of Leeds	915
The University of Plymouth	900
Birmingham City University	845
Coventry University	830
Staffordshire University	815
The University of Wolverhampton	815
The University of Birmingham	800
The University of Huddersfield	780
Oxford Brookes University	780
The University of Lincoln	770
Southampton Solent University	770
The University of Westminster	765
The University of Salford	740
The University of Kent	725
Brunel University	720
University of Derby	715

[1] Covers entrants aged under 21.

Note:

Figures in the table are rounded up or down to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators in Higher Education

Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will list the 30 universities or higher education institutions with the highest *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of non-white students; and if he will make a statement. [69046]

Mr Willetts: The 30 English higher education institutions with the highest proportion and number of UK-domiciled enrolments from ethnic minorities are shown in tables 1 and 2 respectively. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled enrolments[1] from ethnic minorities. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage of enrolments from ethnic minorities[2]*
School of Pharmacy	75.7
University of East London	60.6
Queen Mary and Westfield College	60.3
Brunel University	59.6
City University London	55.0
Aston University	54.7
Middlesex University	53.8
London Metropolitan University	53.8
University of Bradford	53.6
London South Bank University	52.8
Kingston University	50.9
University of Westminster	50.3
St Georges Hospital Medical School	48.7
Thames Valley University	48.5
School of Oriental and African Studies	45.9
University of Buckingham	45.6
University of Greenwich	45.1
University of Hertfordshire	44.0
London School of Economics and Political Science	41.8
University College Birmingham	41.4
Kings College London	41.1
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	39.6
De Montfort University	37.6
Birmingham City University	37.5
Roehampton University	36.2
London Business School	36.1
University College London	34.3
Institute of Cancer Research	34.0
University of Wolverhampton	33.5
Goldsmiths College	33.0

[1] Covers full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments in all years of study.

[2] Covers black, Asian, mixed and other ethnic groups.

Note:

Percentages in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are given to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest number of UK-domiciled enrolments[1] from ethnic minorities. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Enrolments from ethnic minorities[2]*
Open University	19,185
University of East London	12,170
Kingston University	11,115
London South Bank University	10,795
University of Greenwich	9,710
University of Hertfordshire	9,700
London Metropolitan University	9,495
Middlesex University	9,250
University of Westminster	8,455
Birmingham City University	8,170
De Montfort University	7,610
Kings College London	7,445
Brunel University	7,025
Manchester Metropolitan University	6,605
Queen Mary and Westfield College	6,305
Thames Valley University	6,270
University of Wolverhampton	6,240
City University London	5,995
University of Manchester	5,825
Coventry University	5,525
University of Bradford	5,425
Nottingham Trent University	5,230
University College London	4,900
University of Birmingham	4,895
Birkbeck College	4,825

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest number of UK-domiciled enrolments[1] from ethnic minorities. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Enrolments from ethnic minorities*[2]
University of Nottingham	4,275
Aston University	4,095
University of Bedfordshire	4,035
University of Warwick	3,915
University of Salford	3,825

[1] Covers full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments in all years of study.

[2] Covers black, Asian, mixed and other ethnic groups.

Note:

Figures in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the White Paper entitled "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System", what support under the proposals will be available exclusively to not-for-profit universities. [67971]

Mr Willetts: The Government wants to encourage new providers to enter the Higher Education market, to make a reality of student choice, incentivise efficiency and the best possible value for money for students. In our recent White Paper "Students at the Heart of the System" (Cm 8122) we set out our proposals to establish a regulatory system which allows all providers to enter and participate in the Higher Education market on an equitable basis. We have also said that, in addition to access to the student support system, not-for- profit institutions will be able to access grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), to fund additional costs and public policy priorities, such as those associated with high cost or specialist provision, which cannot be met by graduate contributions alone.

Higher Education: Merseyside

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in St Helens South and Whiston constituency applied to enter university in each of the last five academic years; how many such applicants were successful; and what proportion of these were from disadvantaged backgrounds. [69011]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants domiciled in St Helens South and Whiston constituency to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS, by area background, years of entry 2006 to 2010

	Applicants	*Percentage of total*	*Accepted applicants*	*Percentage of total*
2006				
Disadvantaged[1]	483	69	408	68
Other	221	31	195	32
Total	704	100	603	100
2007				
Disadvantaged[1]	521	74	422	74
Other	180	26	148	26
Total	701	100	570	100
2008				
Disadvantaged[1]	584	74	510	76
Other	200	26	163	24
Total	784	100	673	100
2009				
Disadvantaged[1]	669	73	524	72
Other	247	27	201	28
Total	916	100	725	100
2010				
Disadvantaged[1]	637	72	461	70
Other	243	28	193	30
Total	880	100	654	100

[1] Derived from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)'s POLAR2 measure. For the purposes of their funding allocations HEFCE treat entrants from the most disadvantaged 40% of neighbourhoods as 'disadvantaged':

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/fund/

HEFCE uses two different groupings of areas to define disadvantage: one based on the participation rates of young (19 and under) people in higher education (HE) (which is used by HEFCE when looking at young full-time entrants); and one based on the proportion of adults who hold HE qualifications (which is used by HEFCE when looking at part-time and mature full-time entrants). Because this table includes applicants and accepted applicants of all ages, disadvantage is defined by quintiles 1 and 2 of the HE qualified adults measure.

Source:

UCAS

Higher Education: Private Sector

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 333W, on higher education: private sector, what the date was of his first meeting with representatives of Education Management Corporation; and whether any subsequent meetings have taken place. [68002]

Mr Willetts: I met with representatives of Education Management Corporation on 19 July 2010. No subsequent meetings have taken place.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is also available at:

http://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

Higher Education: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged between 17 and 24 years resident in Sunderland Central constituency were eligible to apply to attend university in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [69000]

Mr Willetts: Universities are independent, autonomous bodies. As such, they are responsible for their own admissions decisions. Individual universities set their own minimum entry requirements which may vary from course to course. There is no legal minimum qualification level necessary for someone to apply for higher education.

Information on people aged between 17 and 24 who meet the requirements set by universities is not available centrally.

Intellectual Property

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support UK businesses exploiting their intellectual property. [68835]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) provides support for businesses to help them maximise the value of their intellectual property (IP) through a variety of online tools and training events. These include regional workshops for businesses to learn about IP, online IP health checks that allow businesses to assess their use of IP and provision of a wide variety of information booklets and online resources. The IPO also provides training for business advisors to allow them to better advise businesses on IP issues. To assist companies wishing to operate overseas, the IPO holds joint events with UK Trade and Investment.

The IPO is constantly seeking to develop its support for business and, following the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property, is reviewing its provision of support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular. The IPO will be developing an online training tool for business advisors and IP will form part of the Business Coaching for Growth programme being developed by BIS.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Sheffield

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that Sheffield City Region local enterprise partnership receives a response to its application for start-up costs by 19 July 2011. [67437]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Information on the Start-up Fund for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) made clear that the Department aims to make a decision on all LEP applications by the recess and respond to each LEP by August 1, a deadline I am confident will be hit.

We received a total of 32 applications from LEPs, including one from Sheffield City Region, and the process of assessing and responding is advancing well.

Manufacturing Industries: Wales

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on support available to the manufacturing industry in Wales. [65684]

Mr Prisk: I met with the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) on 23 May to discuss small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and how the Growth Agenda impacts on Wales. In addition, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) and the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint both made separate visits to Wales in March when they took part in discussions with stakeholders, including the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Wales, on a wide range of issues relating to manufacturing and SMEs. Most recently I visited the Toyota plant at Deeside on 29 June to promote the Government's "See Inside Manufacturing" initiative.

Minimum Wage

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of allowing the rate of the minimum wage to be set locally. [68271]

Mr Davey: The Government have no plans to introduce regional or local minimum wages.

The basic principle of the national minimum wage is that it should be set on a single national basis. A single national rate is easier to understand, fairer and easier to enforce.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the activities of unlicensed labour providers in recruiting workers paid at hourly rates below the national minimum wage to work in the *(a)* construction, *(b)* care home, *(c)* cleaning, *(d)* hospitality and *(e)* catering sectors. [69118]

Mr Davey: The national minimum wage (NMW) sets a statutory minimum hourly rate, below which a worker must not be paid and it is illegal to recruit workers below this level. HM Revenue and Customs investigate all complaints made to them about underpayment of the NMW, in addition to conducting targeted enforcement campaigns in particular sectors based on risk assessment of underpayment. Anyone who believes that they are being underpaid should contact the Pay and Work Rights Helpline. The Low Pay Commission (LPC) undertakes analysis each year into low-paying sectors and this informs their recommendations as to the level of the NMW. Their assessment is published in the LPC annual report.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he will take to ensure that workers in the *(a)* construction, *(b)* care home, *(c)* cleaning, *(d)* hospitality and *(e)* catering sectors are paid at hourly rates at or above the national minimum wage; and whether the employment law review is to make recommendations in this area. [69119]

Mr Davey: The Government supports the national minimum wage (NMW) because of the protection it gives low-income workers and the incentives to work it provides. HM Revenue and Customs investigate all complaints made to them and have also recently conducted targeted enforcement in the hotel cleaning and hospitality sectors. As part of the wider employment law review, a review of workplace rights enforcement and compliance is currently being undertaken. The review will consider NMW enforcement, together with other Government enforced workplace rights, to establish what scope there is to streamline them and make them more effective.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on increasing the resources available to HM Revenue and Customs' National Minimum Wage enforcement team. [69188]

Mr Davey: HM Revenue and Customs' national minimum wage enforcement team were allocated £8,295,000 for the 2011/12 financial year. This represents a 2.4% increase from the 2010/11 enforcement budget of £8,100,000.

Multinational Companies

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with his OECD counterparts the extension of OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to countries not currently within the ambit of the Guidelines. [68192]

Mr Davey: BIS officials regularly discuss with their OECD counterparts the extension of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to non-adhering countries during meetings of the OECD Investment Committee, the OECD annual meeting of National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines and OECD roundtables on corporate responsibility.

Music: Licensing

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on small businesses of the conditions of *(a)* Performing Right Society and *(b)* Phonographic Performance Ltd licences; what statutory guidance regulates the issue and enforcement of such licences; and if he will make a statement. [67775]

Mr Davey: The Department has not assessed the effect on small businesses of the licensing conditions of the Performing Right Society (PRS) and Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL). The broader licensing and enforcement framework is set out in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. The collecting society functions of PRS, PPL, and other collecting societies are not specifically regulated by the Government at present. However, the Government have recently accepted a recommendation made by Professor Ian Hargreaves, in his independent review of Intellectual Property and Growth, that collecting societies be regulated through codes of conduct that enshrine minimum standards of fairness and transparency and which govern their relations with licensees. The Government will consult on the implementation of this recommendation later this year.

Neil Wallis

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what communications *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his private office and *(d)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers of his Department have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with Neil Wallis since his appointment; and on what dates. [68735]

Mr Davey: Meetings between Ministers and Permanent Secretaries and external organisations are published quarterly on the Department's website but there have been no meetings or correspondence between Neil Wallis and BIS Ministers. We do not hold a central list of officials' meetings and to provide further information would incur disproportionate cost.

New Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has commissioned research on the effect of external business support on business start-ups. [67055]

Mr Prisk: BIS undertakes regular research examining the use of external business support and the benefits derived. Details of the research can be found on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/analytical-unit/research-and-evaluation/globally-competitive-business-environment

In particular the Solutions for Business Cross-product Monitoring Survey published in June 2010 looked at the impact of three start-up products on new businesses. A further Cross-product Monitoring Survey was commissioned in 2011 and 'Starting a High Growth Business' was one of the products included. Results will be published on the BIS website in due course.

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the change in the level of *(a)* tuition fee income and *(b)* overall spending by international students whilst living in the UK arising from planned changes to the student visa regime in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [69052]

Mr Willetts: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) published an impact assessment of the reform of the Points Based Immigration system in June this year. The assessment said the level of tuition fee income from international students would reduce by £22.5 million in 2011/12; by £30.8 million in 2012/13; and by £59.4 million in 2013/14.

The UKBA impact assessment found the reduction in international student expenditure would be £47.7 million in 2011/12; £95.1 million in 2012/13; and £169.9 million in 2013/14. These figures do not include expenditure by students' dependents, nor do they include the amount generated by students and their dependents through part-time work while in study, which is not the same as the Post-Study Work route. When such reductions are taken into account, the change to total output is estimated by UKBA to be £2 billion in the four years to 2014/15.

The Government are very clear that we should not be discouraging genuine international students coming to the UK to study at genuine institutions. We fully appreciate the economic benefits and wider enrichment students bring to the UK.

What we are attempting to do is tighten up the student route by tackling abuse of the system. The aim is to ensure that we get the balance right between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the system.

Pearson

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister for Universities and Science first met representatives of Pearson following his appointment; and whether subsequent meetings have taken place. [68133]

Mr Willetts: I met with representatives of Pearson on 20 June 2010 and held a subsequent meeting on 13 June 2011. I attended dinners with representatives of Pearson on 3 May 2011 and 23 May 2011.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is also available at:

http://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

Post Offices

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices there were in England and Wales *(a)* in 2005, *(b)* in May 2010 and *(c)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [67786]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the Managing Director of the Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Price Fixing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills following the recent Competition Appeal Tribunal decision on cover pricing, whether the Office of Fair Trading is taking steps to compensate companies which were fined excessively in respect of cover pricing, but which did not take part in the appeal case. [67059]

Mr Davey: No. All the companies who were addressees of the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) decision had the opportunity to appeal within the two month time period stipulated in the Competition Appeal Tribunal's rules. In the absence of an appeal or the grant of permission to appeal out of time, the decision became final as regards each of the addressees on the expiry of this time limit. Given the time elapsed between the OFT decision in September 2009 and the recent Competition Appeal Tribunal judgment, the OFT does not propose to review the decision in respect of any addressee of the decision who chose not to appeal.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration his Department gives to innovation in assessing applications for the second round of the Regional Growth Fund. [67888]

Mr Prisk: All bids will be assessed in accordance with Green Book compliant methodology and inputs from policy leads within Departments. Tangible and intangible benefits related to innovation will be included in the value for money analysis.

Science: Higher Education

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessments he has made of the impact of his Department's policy on recruitment of students securing the equivalent of AAB or above at A-level on the future of degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. [69122]

Mr Willetts: The impact assessment of the proposals in the White Paper can be found on our website. This includes modelling on the policy of allowing unrestrained recruitment of highly qualified students, and the creation of a margin of 20,000 places.

We have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to consult on how to implement these approaches and have made clear that, in doing so, the Council should ensure that Strategically Important and Vulnerable subjects (SIVS) are not disadvantaged. SIVS include high cost science, technology and engineering subject and mathematics. HEFCE are carrying out a consultation on changes to be implemented in 2012-13 and have published some information on degree subjects taken by students entering higher education with entry grades of AAB or above. This information shows that a slightly higher proportion of AAB students are studying science, technology, engineering or maths degrees than students overall.

We have also asked HEFCE to monitor the impact of the approach and its effect and provide advice, as soon as feasible, on how the model is operating in its first year.

Shops: Dogs

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has considered producing health and safety guidance for the purposes of preventing domestic dogs entering shops. [67498]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

HSE has no plans to produce health and safety guidance for the purpose of preventing dogs entering shops.

Retail premises have duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to ensure the health and safety of their employees and, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that those affected by their business activities including customers are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. If retailers have identified a significant risk from domestic dogs entering premises then they should take sensible and proportionate measures to reduce such risk so far as is reasonably practicable.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has overall policy responsibility for health and safety at retail premises while local authorities have responsibility for enforcement of the legislation.

Skills Funding Agency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the total cost of the planned reorganisation of the Skills Funding Agency. [67074]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The current reorganisation of the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) started in autumn 2010 and will be complete by autumn 2011. It will result in the Agency reducing from 1,896 staff to below 1,264 staff and from 20 to 13 offices. The one-off cost is estimated at £48 million. This cost will generate an estimated £20 million savings in the 2011-12 financial year, followed by an expected annual saving by the end of the spending review period of £41 million (i.e. - a reduction of 33% of the baseline budget).

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether a risk assessment was carried out into *(a)* budget reductions and *(b)* reduction of posts with responsibility for health and safety in the Skills Funding Agency. [67076]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* In reaching the decision to reduce health and safety posts the Skills Funding Agency carried out a review of its responsibilities in relation to the health and safety of the learners it funds and was satisfied that it could continue to discharge those responsibilities without the need to employ specialist health and safety advisers.

Small Businesses

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* level of and *(b)* rate of change in the number of EU regulations applicable to small and medium-sized enterprises. [66508]

Mr Prisk: The Government are concerned about the cumulative impact of EU legislation on UK business, including small and medium-sized enterprises. That is why the Government welcomed the European Commission's commitment at the June European Council to assess the impact of future regulations on micro-enterprises, and to screen the existing stock of EU legislation with a view to identifying obligations from which these smallest businesses could be excluded.

The Government also welcomed the political agreement reached at the May Competitiveness Council to allow member states to exclude micro-enterprises from onerous accounting provisions in the 4th Company Law Directive. The Government will continue to work closely with the Commission to seek further reductions in EU regulatory burdens on small firms.

Social Clubs: Smoking

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the effects of the smoking ban on the viability of *(a)* working men's clubs and *(b)* social clubs; and if he will make a statement. [68084]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

In 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England', published in March 2011, the Government set out their belief that the aims of smokefree legislation continue to be achieved effectively.

Alongside this plan, an independent academic review of the evidence of the impact of smokefree legislation, 'Impact of smokefree legislation: evidence review, March 2011' was also published, showing that the legislation has had beneficial effects on health. The academic review also addressed the impact of smokefree legislation on the hospitality industry.

The Government have no plans to review smokefree legislation further at this stage.

All documents referred to have already been placed in the Library.

Spaceflight: Government Assistance

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support the space science and exploration sector. [67617]

Mr Willetts: Strong support to the space science and exploration sector is provided by the UK Space Agency through a £90 million/year subscription for missions of the European Space Agency plus a national programme of scientific instruments for those missions of about £17 million/year. Examples include the very successful Herschel Space Observatory and the ExoMars rover.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage the development of commercial opportunities from investment in space science and exploration. [67618]

Mr Willetts: Space science and exploration is an excellent source of innovation and we have a comprehensive approach to creating commercial opportunities from our programme. The UK Space Agency and partners run networking events bringing space experts together with investors in areas such as health care, energy, environment and security. The agency has recently invested nearly half a million pounds in spin-off projects from the Aurora Mars programme. The European Space Agency provides support through a Technology Transfer Programme and together we have set up a Space Business Incubator to create new businesses exploiting space technology. This is based at the Harwell Space Cluster which also includes the International Space Innovation Centre, a public-private partnership driving space applications into the wider economy.

Students: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the total repayment amount of student loans arising from the new fee regime starting in 2012 in *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2030 and *(c)* 2040; [67098]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total repayment amount of student loans by former students in each decile of graduate income arising from the new fee regime starting in 2012 in *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2030 and *(c)* 2040. [67099]

Mr Willetts: The Government's current estimates of repayments made by students under the new system starting in 2012/13 by earnings decile are:

£ billion

	Financial year		
Decile	*2020-21*	*2030-31*	*2040-41*
1	0.1	0.2	0.2
2	0.1	0.3	0.5
3	0.1	0.4	0.7
4	0.1	0.5	0.8
5	0.1	0.5	1.0
6	0.1	0.6	1.1
7	0.1	0.7	1.2
8	0.1	0.8	1.4
9	0.2	0.9	1.4
10	0.2	1.1	1.4
Total repayments	1.1	6.1	9.7

The figures are adjusted for inflation (RPI) and presented in 2011 prices. They are for full-time English students at UK higher education institutions (HEIs) and EU students at English HEIs. Earnings deciles for each repayment cohort are defined by ranking a set of simulated student loan borrowers by the value of their earnings in real terms (discounting by RPI) over 35 years from their Statutory Repayment Due Date. The deciles for which repayments are presented here include borrowers from all cohorts.

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the White Paper entitled Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System, whether undergraduates who have achieved AAB or better at A-Level, (1) who are enrolled at institutions that are not subject to testing by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, will be eligible for funding; [67972]

(2) who are enrolled at institutions that do not have English degree-awarding powers will be eligible for funding; [67973]

(3) enrolled at institutions that are not accredited as university or university-college in England will be eligible for funding. [67974]

Mr Willetts: Undergraduates that have achieved AAB or better at A-level and who will start their courses on or after 1 September 2012, will be subject to the standard eligibility requirements for student funding in England. Providing that a student meets personal eligibility criteria, they will be entitled to receive funding through the student support system provided that their chosen course of study is "designated" for student support.

From 1 September 2012 all courses that are designated for student support must on successful completion lead to a qualification that is awarded or validated by a body that is recognised to grant UK Degrees (that is, has UK degree awarding powers(DAPs). There will be two exceptions to this: Higher National Diplomas or Higher National Certificates which are awarded by BTEC or the Scottish Qualifications Authority; and Initial Teacher Training Courses, which are subject to their own approval processes managed by BIS and DfE. It is not currently a condition that institutions must be accredited as a university or university college in order for their courses to attract student support—many private institutions provide courses that are designated for student support purposes—nor is it a requirement that provision will be subject to Quality Assurance Agency QAA testing, although the majority of such provision currently is.

The Higher Education White Paper "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System" (June 2011) set out a commitment to introduce a new, fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for higher education in England. Our proposals include introducing legislation that will ensure that in future all designated providers, as a condition of designation for student support or HEFCE teaching grant, will be required to subscribe to the (QAA) and be subject to the English HE quality assurance arrangements for all eligible courses. This would apply regardless of whether they are HEIs, FECs or alternative providers, and whether or not they have DAPs.

Students: Recruitment

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the proposal in the Higher Education White Paper on the recruitment of students with A-level grades of AAB or equivalent applies only to certain A-level subjects. [69123]

Mr Willetts: The proposal in the Higher Education White Paper on the recruitment of students with A-level grades of AAB and above or equivalent applies to all A-level subjects.

Students: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers regarding funding arrangements for students from Scotland wishing to study at universities in England and Wales. [68200]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State has not discussed this subject with Scottish Ministers.

I met with Scottish Ministers on 4 July 2011. A range of issues concerning higher education were discussed.

Officials from BIS have been in regular contact with officials from the Scottish Government to discuss a number of issues, including funding arrangements for students from elsewhere in the UK wishing to study at universities in England.

Welsh universities are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Teachers: Training

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to increase the number of universities offering PGCE courses in *(a)* classics, *(b)* modern languages and *(c)* information technology. [67873]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Education estimates the number of teacher training places (including those on Post Graduate Certificates in Education courses) needed for each subject. This includes PGCE courses in classics, modern languages and information technology. The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) allocates these places to academic institutions and other providers of initial teacher training. The Department's current assessment is that there is enough capacity in the existing pool of universities who are accredited as initial teacher training providers to meet the requirement for teacher training places in all subjects, including classics, modern languages and information technology.

East Midlands Rail Franchise

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the effect on the manufacturing sector in *(a)* Derby, *(b)* the east-midlands and *(c)* the UK of the announcement of the preferred bidder for the Thameslink rail contract. [66292]

Mr Prisk: Ministers are in regular discussion about this matter. Furthermore, my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Transport have jointly written to the Prime Minister outlining their plan for the Growth Review to fully explore the opportunity to take a more strategic approach to major public procurement.

On 7 July 2011 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills announced the creation of an Economic Response Task Force chaired by Margaret Gildea OBE, which will look to understand and mitigate the economic impact of job losses at Bombardier, its supply chain and the local community. In the longer term the Government will work with the rail industry as we develop our strategies to secure more sustainable investment in the UK and to maximise business opportunities identified through contracts like the Intercity Express Programme, Thameslink and Crossrail.

Union Modernisation Fund

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether there are any restrictions on the use of the facilities provided to the RMT union and funded through the RMT Remote Access Project from the Union Modernisation Fund; [69095]

(2) whether there are any restrictions on the use of the facilities provided to the Amicus/Unite union and funded through the Piloting IT Services for Branches Project from the Union Modernisation Fund; [69096]

(3) whether there are any restrictions on the use of the facilities provided to the ASLEF union and funded through the Transforming Communications with union members Project from the Union Modernisation Fund. [69097]

Mr Davey: The Union Modernisation Fund is a grant scheme set up to provide financial assistance to trade unions in support of innovative modernisation projects that contribute to a transformational change in the organisational effectiveness of trade unions as they respond to changes in the UK labour market. The aim was to enhance the ability of trade unions to meet the needs of their members and make an effective contribution to constructive employment relations.

The grant offer letters for each project clearly sets out the terms and conditions and activity for which the grant has been provided and this does not include carrying out political objectives or campaign activity. All projects are regularly monitored and evaluation of expenditure is undertaken to ensure union activity falls within the scope of the fund.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 196W, on Union Modernisation Fund, which academics or organisations will be commissioned to undertake the evaluation research into the effectiveness and value for money of round three projects. [69098]

Mr Davey: To ensure a consistent approach the Department is in discussion with Leeds University Business School to conduct an evaluation of the round three projects.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many projects funded by the Union Modernisation Fund completed all project milestones within the specified timetable. [69099]

Mr Davey: 30 round one projects and 31 round two projects completed project milestones within the specified timetable. Two round two projects were granted project extensions. Round three projects are on course to complete within the specified timetable.

TREASURY

Bank of Ireland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Irish Government regarding the Bank of Ireland's 13.375% subordinated bonds and its recently withdrawn capital raising offer. [68263]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions or correspondence received.

Bombardier Transportation: Redundancy

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on the public revenues of the job losses announced by Bombardier Transportation UK Ltd on 5 July 2011. [68844]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 815W, to the hon. Member for Derby North (Chris Williamson).

Child Benefit: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families whose head of household is *(a)* a Polish, *(b)* a Lithuanian, *(c)* a Latvian, *(d)* a Czech, *(e)* a Slovak, *(f)* a Portuguese and *(g)* an Estonian national domiciled in the

Peterborough city council area were in receipt of child benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [67681]

Mr Gauke: The information as requested is not available.

The latest data on child benefit are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug10.pdf

This shows that the total number of families claiming child benefit is 7,841,675 on behalf of 13,685,250 children.

In addition, page 25 of the latest Home Office Accession Monitoring Report (link as follows) published in May 2009 gives total child benefit claims in 2008 by A8 nationals (this is nationals of the eight central and eastern European countries which acceded to the EU on 1 May 2004. This includes Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, and Hungary but not Portugal). This shows that there were 35,883 child benefit applications approved for A8 nationals in 2008.

Data are not collected at a regional or constituency level.

The Home Office Accession Monitoring Report:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100422120657/http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/

Crown Estate

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what means his Department monitors the economic activity of the Crown Estate. [67378]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The framework document, which describes how HM Treasury and The Crown Estate work together, is published on The Crown Estate website:

http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/about_us.htm

Cybercrime

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of HM Revenue and Customs have been assigned to bespoke cybercrime teams. [67737]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not currently have bespoke cybercrime teams. The threat of cybercrime is addressed through multi-functional teams tackling a wide range of fraud and evasion. This includes officials to carry out investigations, gather intelligence, secure HMRC's IT systems and provide guidance and support to its customers. As part of the reinvestment package announced in the 2010 spending review HMRC is developing a bespoke cybercrime team that will provide additional specialist capability to tackle this threat.

Departmental Accountancy

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written directions his Department's accounting officer received from Ministers in each year from 1997 to 2010; what the related expenditure was in each case; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such direction. [67487]

Justine Greening: The information sought is set out in the following table. The Treasury issued two ministerial directions, which were published in the House of Commons Library in February 2010. They can be accessed from the Deposited papers section of the UK Parliament website under reference DEP2010 0367, which were placed in the Library in 2010.

	Department	*Direction*	*Category*
2008	HM Treasury	Landsbanki	VFM
2009	HM Treasury	Asset Protection Scheme	Propriety

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from his Department in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* June 2011. [66756]

Justine Greening: Monthly data on the performance of all Government Departments against the Government's commitment to reduce emissions from its office estate by 10% in the 12 months from 14 May 2010 are published on the Government's public data website at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

In this period, HM Treasury reduced the carbon dioxide emissions from its office estate by over 14%.

From the data published for the period 14 May to 30 June 2010, HM Treasury emitted an estimated 417 tonnes of carbon dioxide during June 2010 (on a pro rata basis). Data for June 2011 is not yet available.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on departmental carbon emissions, if he will assess the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on his Department's estate. [67939]

Justine Greening: The feasibility of low-carbon energy generation has been considered in the past for Treasury's 1 Horse Guards road building but the practical limitations of adapting a grade II* listed building currently preclude this from being taken forward.

HM Treasury currently receives electricity under a cross-Government framework contract which guarantees that at least 10% will be generated from renewable sources, and 15% from combined heat and power.

Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66579]

Justine Greening: The following items of HM Treasury property were lost or stolen from the Department during the 12 months ending December 2010:

Lost

Five BlackBerry mobile devices
One Blackberry Sim card
One laptop computer
Five laptop tokens
One USB memory stick

Stolen

Three laptop computers

One laptop token

One BlackBerry mobile device

Five mobile phone Sim cards.

The total cost of replacement is estimated at £5,500.

NDPB Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66332]

Justine Greening: Details of HM Treasury staffing, recruitments and redundancies in 2010-11 are published in its Annual Report and Accounts (HC 984).

The Department had the equivalent of 101 fewer full-time staff at the end of this period than at the same time the previous year. The number of recruitments during this period was equivalent to 175 full-time staff and the number of departmental staff who accepted redundancy terms was fewer than five. It is the Treasury's policy for reasons of confidentiality not to release full details relating to numbers of staff fewer than five, where to do so might lead to the identification of individual cases.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee did not employ any staff in the period in question.

Official Cars

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* cars leased by his Department to staff and *(b)* ministerial chauffeurs between (i) November 1999 and June 2001, (ii) May 2002 and June 2007 and (iii) June 2007 and January 2008. [68386]

Justine Greening: Detailed information on spending prior to 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost due to the introduction of a new accounting system in that year. Between April 2002 and January 2008, the Treasury did not incur any spending on leasing cars to staff or on ministerial chauffeurs.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67227]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not hold information on the number of procurement contracts awarded to small businesses in this period. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

However, in 2009-10 (the most recent period for which information is available) HM Treasury's third party spend for goods and services was £117.5 million, 32% of which was procured from organisations defined as small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

HM Treasury published its SME Action Plan on 3 June 2011, which committed to "collate and record management information that measures SME engagement in the departmental supply chains/networks" by the end of September 2011.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67156]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67574]

Justine Greening: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he classifies the Energy Company Obligation as a regulation or a levy for the purposes of assessing DECC levy-funded spending. [68108]

Justine Greening: The Energy Company Obligation, as with similar obligations, will be considered levy-funded spending if falls within the scope of measures considered by the Office for National Statistics as tax and spending for National Accounts purposes.

Energy: Prices

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in revenue received by the Exchequer as a result of the recent increases in prices by energy suppliers. [66217]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* No estimate has been made. However, if extra expenditure on domestic fuel was funded by less spending on goods and services that attract the 20% standard rate of VAT, HMRC would receive less VAT revenue, since domestic fuel and power is taxed at the reduced rated rate of 5%.

The Government are committed to addressing fuel poverty, notably by introducing the warm home discount to assist more of the most vulnerable households with their energy bills and introducing the Green Deal from 2012 so that households and businesses can improve their energy efficiency at no upfront cost, repaying through their savings on energy bills.

EU Budget

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the proposals contained in the European Commission document, "Proposal for a Council decision on the system of own resources of the European Union"; [69102]

(2) what assessment he has made of the European Commission's document, "Proposal for a Council regulation laying down implementing measures for the system of own resources of the European Union". [69105]

Justine Greening: The Government are opposed to the changes to the Own Resources System proposed by the European Commission.

The Government also strongly oppose any new EU taxes to fund the EU budget and oppose the Commission's proposal in this area. The Government attach considerable importance to the principle of tax sovereignty, and believe tax policy is primarily a matter for member states to determine at a national level.

Under article 311 of the EU treaty, a change to the way in which the EU is funded would have to be unanimously agreed by all member states and ratified by national Parliaments.

The Commission's proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework, including the proposals on the Own Resources System, is the first stage in an extended negotiations process. These negotiations will begin in the autumn of this year and it is too early to speculate on the outcome of these negotiations at this stage. There is no fixed period for negotiation. The eventual Multiannual Financial Framework must be agreed unanimously by all member states at Council and then approved by the European Parliament.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which proposals he has discussed with his EU counterparts in respect of the raising of resources for the EU under Article 311 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. [69103]

Justine Greening: The Government have made it clear that the UK is opposed to any new EU tax to finance the EU budget.

Under Article 311 of the EU Treaty, a change to the way in which the EU is funded would have to be unanimously agreed by all member states and ratified by national parliaments.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the EU's financial framework for 2014 to 2020 to be agreed. [69104]

Justine Greening: The European Commission's proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework, released on 29 June 2011, is the first stage in an extended negotiations process. These negotiations will begin in the autumn of this year and it is currently too early to speculate on the outcome of these negotiations as there is no fixed period for negotiation.

EU Budget: Contributions

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid from the Exchequer to *(a)* the EU budget and *(b)* each EU institution (i) gross and (ii) net of expenditure of the EU or each EU institution in the UK in (A) 2008, (B) 2009 and (C) 2010. [68966]

Justine Greening: The UK makes its contributions to the EU budget as a whole and not to the separate Institutions or programmes within it. Latest figures for the UK's gross, after taking account of the UK abatement, and net contributions in the financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11 can be found in Table C1 of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis (Cm 8104) of July 2011.

European Investment Bank

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the UK's liability to deliver subscribed capital to the European Investment Bank which has not yet been paid. [68186]

Justine Greening: As set out in the Consolidated Fund Accounts published in July, the current market circumstances notwithstanding, it is unlikely that member states will be called upon to pay the remaining capital.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the likely effects of closing the Financial Inclusion Fund. [37104]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 580W, on the Financial Inclusion Fund, when he expects to announce his decision on the future funding of projects currently funded by the Financial Inclusion Fund [38412]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Inclusion Fund was always due to close in March 2010, with individual programmes being taken forward by individual Government Departments including the Credit Union Modernisation Fund and the continuation of funding for debt advice this financial year ahead of the Money Advice Service taking on the delivery of this from March 2012.

The Government remain committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

Financial Markets: Food

Laura Sandys: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of trends in financial speculation on food on the ability of *(a)* producers and *(b)* end users of foodstuffs to hedge risk. [68625]

Mr Hoban: Trading in commodity markets plays an important role in providing liquidity (the volume of trades being made in a market) in agricultural futures and options markets and that liquidity is essential to the effective functioning of these markets. Against the backdrop of climate change, and the possibility that international agricultural prices, may become more volatile over time, the role of agricultural futures and options markets, and the liquidity they rely on, become more important in allowing farmers and others involved in the supply chain to hedge the price risks they face.

Financial Services: Fees and Charges

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with the Financial Services Authority steps to ensure greater clarity in the additional costs applied to headline annual fees by financial institutions. [62327]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet members of the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

The FSA's Retail Distribution Review aims to address structural problems in the distribution of retail investment products. The FSA's work includes proposals to increase clarity and transparency for consumers.

Fujitsu

Stella Creasy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has paid to Fujitsu as part of its Public Sector Flex IT service since May 2010; and what further payments are planned. [67677]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* Details of HM Treasury's contract for IT services are published in Note 23.3 of its 2010-11 Resource Accounts (HC 984).

HM Treasury publishes all spending over £25,000 monthly on its public website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_transparency_spend.htm

Gift Aid: Applications

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* mode and *(c)* maximum period taken by HM Revenue and Customs to process a gift aid application for a new charity was in the fiscal year 2010-11; [67130]

(2) what steps HM Revenue and Customs takes to expedite the approval of gift aid applications from new charities; and if he will make a statement. [67131]

Justine Greening: In 2010-11, HMRC processed 79% of applications within the target of 30 days. The maximum period for processing an application in 2010-11 was eight weeks. The information requested on mean and mode periods could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HMRC recently introduced a new intelligent form to help make it easier to apply for recognition as a charity for UK tax purposes, and is developing a new system which will enable charities to complete applications online from 2012-13.

Government Procurement Card

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have a Government Procurement Card. [67840]

Justine Greening: There are 121 Government Procurement Cards issued to Treasury staff. None are held by special advisers.

Green Investment Bank

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider issuing green gilts for the purposes of providing finance for the Green Investment Bank. [68107]

Justine Greening: As set out in Budget 2011 the Government will enable the Green Investment Bank to have borrowing powers from 2015-16 and once the target for debt to be failing as percentage of GDP has been met.

The update on the Green Investment Bank published in May this year identified a range of potential borrowing options for the GIB which the Government will be assessing in due course.

Inflation

Laura Sandys: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department work on the impact on inflation of *(a)* food prices and *(b)* energy prices. [69020]

Mr Hoban: A range of HM Treasury officials, together with colleagues in other parts of Government, work on these issues as part of their wider roles.

International Monetary Fund

Mark Reckless: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by what percentage Britain's International Monetary Fund (IMF) subscription will change as a result of the quota changes agreed by the IMF in November 2010; [62329]

(2) what assessment he has made of the size of the UK's contribution to the International Monetary Fund compared to that of India; [62356]

(3) what comparative assessment he has made of the rate of increase of the UK's subscription to the International Monetary Fund agreed in November 2010 compared to that of *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Belgium and *(c)* Saudi Arabia; [62363]

(4) when his Department expects to pay the UK's increased subscription to the International Monetary Fund; [62360]

(5) how much of the increase in the Foreign Exchange Reserve will be allocated to International Monetary Fund programmes; [62359]

(6) for what reasons Britain's contribution quota to the International Monetary Fund has remained the same as that of France. [62362]

Mr Hoban: Each member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is assigned a quota allocation that broadly reflects its relative size in the global economy based on a formula. The UK's current quota share is SDR 10,739 million (£10,581 million based on the sterling-SDR exchange rate on the 31 March 2011), which represents a 4.52% share.

This represents the potential amount of financing from the UK that the IMF could call on via quota subscription, not an upfront financing commitment.

In December-2010 the IMF's Governors approved an increase in the total quota by 100% from approximately SDR 238.4 billion to approximately SDR 476.8 billion, following an agreement by world leaders at the Seoul G-20 summit. These reforms will enable the fund to meet its resource needs over the medium term, preserve the IMF's status as a quota-based institution and deliver greater quota representation to the dynamic emerging and developing countries.

The UK's total quota share will increase by SDR 9,417 million (£9,278 million) to SDR 20,155 million (£19,858 million).

The values of all individual member countries' current shareholdings and the forthcoming shifts as a result of the 2010 reforms are available at on the IMF's website at:

http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/memdir/members.aspx

The increase in the UK's subscription to the IMF will only be implemented once the overall quota increase has been approved by member countries accounting for 70% of total quotas (as of November 5, 2010) and once member countries accounting for 85% of the existing quota share have ratified the other amendments to the Articles of Agreement on the reform of the IMF's Executive Board which were also agreed in November 2010. Consistent with the UK's legislative guidelines, the Government have taken steps to domestically ratify this commitment by laying legislation in Parliament on the 13 June 2011. This process is also being undertaken by other IMF member countries. The G-20 countries have committed to completing the reforms by the Annual Meetings in October 2012.

All UK loans to the IMF are financed from the UK's Official Reserves. They remain UK assets and therefore do not count as public spending, and do not contribute to public sector net debt.

The 2011 Budget provided an additional £6 billion of sterling financing to purchase reserve assets. This will ensure the level of foreign currency reserves held is sufficient whilst meeting potential calls from the International Monetary Fund. Once the quota reforms are completed, members are initially required to deposit 25% of their quota at the fund in reserve assets. Aside from this, the amount of financing that the UK provides to the IMF will depend on the number, size and timing of IMF lending programmes and also, at a technical level, on exactly how the IMF chooses to manage the financing of these programmes.

The UK has had a long standing bilateral agreement with France to equalise their shares in the IMF. This has been mutually beneficial, and the UK and France have worked closely together to secure a number of policy objectives, for example reforming the IMF's role in low income countries.

Mark Reckless: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many gilts (1) he expects to borrow between July 2011 and 2014-15; and what proportion of these relate to the UK's International Monetary Fund commitments; [62357]

(2) have been borrowed for the purposes of increasing the Foreign Exchange Reserve since May 2010; and what proportion of these relate to the UK's International Monetary Fund commitments. [62358]

Mr Hoban: The Government do not project gilt sales beyond 2011-12. The Government publish projections for their net financing requirement, including projected financing for the official reserves, from 2012-13 to 2015-16, in Table 2A of the Debt and Reserves Management Report 2011-12

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_debtreserves.htm

All commitments to the IMF are financed from the UK's Official Reserves—either through sale of existing foreign exchange assets or from additional sterling financing through selling gilts. The Government envisage sterling financing for the Official Reserves being held on average at £6 billion a year up to and including 2014- 15. This will ensure the level of foreign currency reserves held is sufficient while meeting potential calls from the International Monetary Fund.

The UK's IMF quota subscription does not represent an upfront financing commitment, rather is a potential amount of financing that the IMF could call on via quota subscriptions if needed.

Landfill Tax

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on revenue from landfill tax of incinerators becoming operational in the next five years. [68301]

Justine Greening: Landfill tax forecasts are calculated using a number of waste data sources and take in to account alternative waste management treatment capacity, including incineration.

Recent OBR forecasts for UK tax receipts can be found in Table C3: Current receipts.

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

Loans: Greece

Jim Shannon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the UK's contribution to the IMF has been allocated for financial assistance to Greece. [68508]

Mr Hoban: When a country has a programme with the IMF, the UK does not lend money to that country directly. The UK lends to the IMF, and the IMF then lends money to countries with IMF programmes.

Details of the UK's relationship with the Fund, including our latest financial position, can be found at:

http://www.imf.org/external/country/GBR/index.htm

Details of the IMF's relationship with Greece can be found at:

http://www.imf.org/external/country/GRC/index.htm

Members: Correspondence

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to Question 57980, tabled by the hon. Member for Isle of Wight on 24 May 2011 on correspondence. [63346]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 19W.

Minimum Wage

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been employed in HM Revenue and Customs' National Minimum Wage enforcement team in each year since 2005. [69189]

Mr Gauke: The number of staff employed in HMRC National Minimum Wage enforcement teams in the years requested is in the following table.

At April	*Staff in post*
2005	114
2006	110
2007	109
2008	122
2009	125
2010	129
2011	122

National Insurance Contributions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of *(a)* employer and *(b)* employee national insurance contributions in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [68304]

Mr Gauke: A breakdown of UK national insurance contribution receipts is given in the following table.

£ billion

	Class 1 employee contributions	*Class 1 employer contributions*
2008-09	38.0	55.7
2009-10	37.9	54.7
2010-11	38.2	55.6

New Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many value added tax registrations there were in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* ward in England in each deprivation decile in each year since 2005. [67482]

Mr Gauke: The number of value added tax registrations by parliamentary constituency can be found in the report 'Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations', published by the Department for Businesses Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in November 2008. This report was discontinued in 2008, and so registration figures are only available up to 2007.

Information is not readily available on value added tax registrations by deprivation decile at parliamentary constituency or ward level and could be estimated only at disproportionate cost.

Northern Rock

Andrew Percy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money has been repaid to the public purse by each bank that has been lent money from the public purse since the collapse of Northern Rock. [47552]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 18 March 2011]:* During the financial crisis the previous Government oversaw a number of different interventions in the UK financial sector. Full details of financial support provided to UK banks are published by HM Treasury on a financial year basis in the HM Treasury Resource and Accounts. Some of these interventions took the form of loans. This included the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS), the Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) (operated by the Bank of England), the transfer to public ownership of Northern Rock and Bradford & Bingley and loans to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) which allowed the transfer of deposits or pay out of compensation to depositors in the five banks that went into default in the autumn of 2008.

The overall amount of wholesale lending guaranteed under the CGS peaked at just under £140 billion in May 2009. The most recent published outstanding figure was £115 billion as of December 2010. HM Treasury does not report on individual usage of the scheme.

The Bank of England reported that exposure through the SLS peaked at £185 billion when the SLS drawdown window came to an end in January 2009. As at December 2010 the outstanding exposure was £110 billion following repayments totalling £75 billion.

At 31 March 2010 Northern Rock (Asset Management) had repaid £248 million, the outstanding loan balance stood at £23.0 billion.

HM Treasury made loans to the FSCS and as part of the HM Treasury top-up to fund the transfer of deposits or compensation payments to depositors in the five banks that went into default in autumn 2008.

At 31 March 2010 £1.2 billion had been repaid through the administration of Kaupthing, Singer & Friedlander (KSF). The outstanding loan balance in respect of KSF was £163 million under the HM Treasury liability and £1.8 billion under the FSCS liability. At 31 March 2010 £194 million had been repaid through the administration of Heritable. The outstanding loan balance in respect of Heritable was £40.5 million under the HM Treasury liability and £307.4 million in respect of the FSCS liability.

Further detail on the loans and other Government interventions can be found in the HM Treasury Resource Accounts 2009-10 available on the HM Treasury website. HM Treasury Resource Accounts for 2010-11 will be published in due course.

Occupational Pensions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information he holds on the average employer contribution rate to pensions in *(a)* the private and *(b)* the public sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [66403]

Danny Alexander: The interim report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission (IPSPC) estimated that of the 19 million private sector employees, there are 2.6 million active members of private sector defined benefit schemes, 1 million members of defined contribution pension schemes and 3 million individuals who are covered by employer sponsored group personal pensions or stakeholder pensions. Chart 1F of the interim report shows that around two thirds of private sector employees, or around 12 million individuals, have no employer sponsored pension provision.

The IPSPC estimate that the average employer contribution to an open defined benefit scheme in the private sector is 14.9% of pay and the average employer contribution to an open defined contribution scheme in the private is 6.4% of pay.

Employers are not currently required to contribute to group personal pensions or stakeholder pension schemes, though many choose to do so. HM Treasury does not hold information on average contribution rates to these schemes. From October 2012 employers will have a new duty to automatically enrol qualifying employees into a workplace pension scheme, and to make mandatory contributions.

There are 5.4 million active members in defined benefit public service pension schemes and the average employer contribution rate to these schemes is just over 15% of pay. Employer contribution levels vary from scheme to scheme and further details of contribution levels are available in Table 3.G in the final report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information he holds on the average occupational pension paid to those who have worked in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector in the latest period for which figures are available; [66405]

(2) if he will estimate the average occupational pension paid to those who have worked in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [66411]

Danny Alexander: The national median income across occupational pensions, provided by the employer, and private pensions, arranged by the individual, in both the public and private sectors, is around £3,900 a year, and the mean income is around £6,300[1].

The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission found that the median public service pension in payment to retired public servants is £5,600 a year and the mean £7,800 a year. The commission noted that this figure reflects the fact that many public service pensioners may have had short or interrupted careers in public service and full career pensions might be larger than this.

HM Treasury does not hold information on the average pension received by workers in the private sector. The average pension income for private sector workers will be below the national average pension income because public service pensions are higher as shown in the figures above.

[1] Based on estimates in the Pensioners' Income Series produced by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Patents

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Department's Patent Box Consultation, what estimate he has made of the cost of moving from cut-off date to phase-in commencement provisions. [67858]

Mr Gauke: We expect that the move from cut-off date to phase-in commencement provisions will be achievable within the cost estimate for the Patent Box released at Budget. Final costings will be subject to Office for Budget Responsibility scrutiny and the outcome of the consultation.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to receive a report from the Accountancy and Actuarial Discipline Board on the conduct of the auditors involved with the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [61957]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 27 June 2011]*: The Accountancy and Actuarial Discipline Board (AADB) is an independent disciplinary body and does not submit reports on the outcome of its investigations to Ministers.

Public Sector Pensions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many serving public sector employees are expected to retire with pensions with an annual monetary value of more than *(a)* £30,000, *(b)* £50,000, *(c)* £100,000 and *(d)* £142,500. [66401]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury does not hold this data. This information may be available from Departments that lead on individual public service pension schemes.

Table 1.C of the interim report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission provides an estimate of the number of pensioners in the main public service schemes receiving at least £37,000 and at least £67,000 on a scheme by scheme basis. The table can be found on the HM Treasury webpage at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/hutton_pensionsinterim_071010.pdf

The total number of retired public sector workers receiving pensions in payment is summarised as follows:

At least £37,000—34,252

At least £67,000—2,960.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public sector workers have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of greater than £1 million. [66402]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury is not responsible for the calculation of cash equivalent transfer values for individual public sector workers; it would be for individual Departments to produce this information on request from the individual.

In written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee HM Treasury presented, for the committee to consider, a list of individuals in central Departments with CETVs approaching £2 million as of 31 March 2010.

This is available from the House Library and online:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmpubacc/833/833we02.htm

Individual employers' Remuneration Reports (contained within Departmental Resource Accounts) include details of the pension benefits and Cash Equivalent Transfer Values (CETVs) for each of the members of the Department's senior management team. These are available online on an employer by employer basis, but are not collated centrally.

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the potential saving to the public purse from increases to the contribution rates for public sector pensions during the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [66404]

Danny Alexander: Estimates of the savings to the Exchequer from the proposed increases to employee contribution rates for public service pensions are shown in the following table.

	Estimated annual savings (£ million)
2011-12	0
2012-13	1,160
2013-14	2,270
2014-15	2,760
2015-16	2,850

Savings presented in Table 2.2 of Budget 2011 represented additional savings generated on top if the previous Government's cap and share reforms.

Revenue and Customs

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what (1) criteria he plans to use to recruit members of the Board of HM Revenue and Customs; [67740]

(2) his policy is on the number of members of the Board of HM Revenue and Customs who should be trained tax inspectors. [67739]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs follows the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles when recruiting new board members. All appointments follow the principle of selection based on merit and the use of an open and transparent recruitment process.

Board members must demonstrate that they are committed to, and have an understanding of, the value and importance of the Seven Principles of Public Life. They must also disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest. Any potential issues have to be discussed with the individual to establish whether and what action is needed to avoid a conflict or the perception of a conflict, taking account of advice received from the Cabinet Office Propriety and Ethics team as appropriate.

The Board of HMRC comprises of Mike Clasper as non-executive chairman, Lesley Strathie as chief executive and principal accounting officer, members of HMRC's executive committee and non-executive directors. The board is accountable for developing and approving HMRC's overall strategy and final business plans and also performs an assurance role and advises on best practice. HMRC has not set a requirement as to how many of the board should be tax professionally trained as the entire board is supported by tax professionals operating at all levels in the organisation.

Revenue and Customs: Air Travel

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on flights within England in 2010-11. [67841]

Mr Gauke: HMRC spent £336,992 on flights within United Kingdom 2010-11 via their contracted travel management company, Carlson Wagonlit Travel. Where HMRC staff purchased their own tickets and claimed back the cost incurred via an expense claim, the information is not available. The data on HMRC systems are not held in a way as to disaggregate flights within England from other UK flights.

HMRC is committed to reducing travel costs and the impact of its business on the environment. Staff are encouraged to consider alternatives to travel such as voice and video conferencing. Where travel is necessary, staff are asked to consider the full cost of their journey and to use public transport. However, it is recognised that there are occasions where some routes with budget airlines are often cheaper when compared to rail tickets purchased at short notice.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of engaging an external body to establish a set of standards against which HM Revenue and Customs can be held accountable. [67730]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs is a non-ministerial department whose powers are defined in law and are subject to parliamentary and Select Committee scrutiny. The chief executive is accountable to the head of the home civil service for delivery of actions required following HMRC's Capability Review. HMRC's Charter sets out clearly what customers can expect from the department and HMRC's service standards are published in its business plan.

Royal Reserve Fund

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to his contribution of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 531-43, on the Sovereign Grant Bill, what the amount was of the Royal Reserve Fund in each year for which figures are available; [67387]

(2) how much the Royal Family has received in *(a)* travel grant and *(b)* palace grant in each of the last 10 years. [67652]

Justine Greening: Information on the Civil List Reserve and the grants in aid for Royal Travel and Maintenance of the Royal Palaces, are published in the Report of the Royal Trustees printed on 4 July 2000 (HC 644); the Report of the Royal Trustees printed on 22 June 2010 (HC 140); and the Royal Public Finances Annual Report 2010-11 printed on 4 July 2011. The Royal Trustees Reports are laid in the House Library, and the annual report is available online at:

www.royal.gov.uk

and in print from the Deputy Treasurer to The Queen, Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA.

Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67144]

Justine Greening: Treasury officials have regular meetings with officials across the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of HM Revenue and Customs have been assigned to the prevention of benefit fraud in each year since 2007. [67743]

Mr Gauke: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff deployed on both tax credit and child benefit compliance activity, which includes all aspects of compliance including fraud, is in the following table.

Date at April	*Number of staff (FTE)*
2011	1,600
2010	1,377
2009	1,475
2008	1,365
2007	1,405

Tax Avoidance and Evasion

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many criminal prosecutions HM Revenue and Customs has brought for tax avoidance and evasion in each of the last five years; and what target has been set for such prosecutions in the period from 2011 to 2015. [67731]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not hesitate to use its criminal investigation powers to pursue a prosecution. However, cost-effective civil settlement procedures are used in the majority of tax avoidance and evasion cases. This represents excellent value for the Exchequer, as all undeclared tax is repaid and defaulters also pay a penalty, which can be up to 100% of the tax evaded, plus interest on the undeclared tax. Every year we collect millions of pounds of evaded tax using these well-established methods.

Where cases do proceed to the criminal courts the prosecution is carried out by the relevant independent prosecuting authority. The Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in Scotland, and the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland.

Details of the total number of cases prosecuted for income tax, corporation tax, VAT, excise and other tax offences are set out in the following table. These include prosecutions relating both to organised criminal attacks and lower level frauds.

	Number
2006-07	389
2007-08	416
2008-09	340
2009-10	237
2010-11	385

HMRC does not set targets for the number of prosecutions achieved in each year. But as part of the reinvestment package announced in the 2010 spending review HMRC will be expected to deliver a significant year on year increase both in criminal investigations and, working in partnership with the independent prosecuting authorities, prosecutions related to lower level tax evasion and fraud.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of HM Revenue and Customs (1) at each grade are assigned to its team of investigators to identify persons hiding money offshore; [67734]

(2) have been assigned to investigation of those hiding money offshore in each year since 2007. [67735]

Mr Gauke: Staff are employed on offshore work in a number of different ways and the exact level of resource (i.e. the proportion of time spent on offshore work) cannot be meaningfully presented from readily available data held by the various directorates of HMRC. Going forward, the Government Spending Review Report made reference to the need for a dedicated team to address the problem of tax evasion facilitated by the use of offshore financial centres. HMRC has responded to the ministerial announcement by recruiting 25 investigators to a new offshore evasion team, to be in post by the autumn, increasing to 100 by 2015. The Offshore Co-ordination Unit will provide oversight to the activities undertaken throughout the Department dedicated to tackling offshore avoidance and evasion.

Taxation: Business

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to *(a)* simplify the tax system and *(b)* reduce regulatory burdens on small and medium-sized businesses. [68516]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to simplifying the tax system and reducing burdens of regulation on small business.

Already this Government have: established the Office of Tax Simplification; announced the intention to abolish 43 tax reliefs, following a review by the OTS and; asked the OTS to take forward its review of small business taxation, alongside new reviews of pensioner taxation and approved employee share schemes.

To tackle regulation this Government have: introduced one-in one-out so that no new regulatory costs are brought in without offsetting deregulation and introduced a moratorium exempting micro and start-up businesses from new domestic regulation from April 2011 to April 2014.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential benefits of merging income tax and employee national insurance contributions. [68517]

Mr Gauke: At Budget 2011 the Chancellor announced that the Government would consult on the operational merger of income tax and National Insurance. As part of this process, a "call for evidence" was launched on the 11 July. A link to the document is provided as follows.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_income_nics.htm

The Government will publish a consultation document on options for reform in the autumn, once all responses to the call for evidence have been received. Once the full consultation has completed, and the policy design is final or near final, the Government will publish a full assessment of the impacts in a Tax Information and Impact Note (TIIN).

Taxation: Business

Mr Woodward: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time was between the submission of a P35 and the refunding of any tax overpaid in each of the last five years; and what the average amount of tax repaid to each employer was where a refund was made. [69008]

Mr Gauke: This information is not available and could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the level of green taxes levied on *(a)* businesses, *(b)* households and *(c)* individuals. [66506]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury receives numerous representations from businesses, households and individuals, expressing a range of views on green taxes.

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the carbon price floor on the British coal industry. [68802]

Justine Greening: The carbon price floor will drive £30-40 billion of new investment in low-carbon generation by 2030.

An assessment of the impacts of the carbon price floor, including on industry, is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

Taxation: Foreign Workers

David Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has assessed the potential effect on income tax revenue of offshoring of work by private companies holding public sector contracts in the next five years; [68603]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect on income tax revenue of Hewlett Packard's application to offshore elements of the Adams 2 contract. [68604]

Mr Gauke: Neither HM Treasury nor HM Revenue and Customs hold the detailed information required to provide a reliable estimate of the effect on income tax revenues of offshoring of work by private companies holding public sector contracts.

Taxation: Overpayments

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason HM Revenue and Customs has reduced to four years the period in respect of which persons may reclaim overpayment of tax. [61617]

Mr Gauke: The Finance Act 2008 reduced the relevant time limit for claims and assessments from six years to four years as part of a wider alignment of time limits across all the taxes which aimed to simplify the system and reduce customer burdens. This was part of the work of HMRC's review of powers, deterrents and safeguards intended to modernise and align the various powers of ex-Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of 2010-11 tax returns that have been lost. [67839]

Mr Gauke: Information on the number of tax returns is not recorded centrally.

HMRC has a rigorous system in place including tracking measures in order to minimise the risk of losses.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was first informed of the decision by the Secretary of State for Transport to award the preferred bidder status for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project to Siemens. [68842]

Danny Alexander: I was informed of the Secretary of State for Transport's decision to award preferred bidder status for the Thameslink Rolling Stock procurement to Siemens on 18 May.

Unpaid Taxes

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs made of the revenue lost to the Exchequer from written-off or remitted tax debt in 2010-11. [67742]

Mr Gauke: The amount of revenue remitted or written-off in 2010-11 by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is set out in Table 9.2 on page 152 of HMRCs 2010-11 Annual Accounts.

These are available at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/annual-report-accounts-1011.pdf

VAT: EU Budget

Mrs Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on proposals to increase the proportion of VAT receipts allocated to the EU budget. [68774]

Justine Greening: The UK currently does not pay any of its VAT receipts to the EU. VAT-based contributions to the EU budget are calculated on the basis of a notional harmonised rate, using an identical range of goods and services in each member state.

The UK does not support the Commission's proposed revision of the VAT-based resource.

Negotiations on the proposal have yet to start but under article 311 of the EU treaty, a change to the way in which the EU is funded would have to be unanimously agreed by all member states and ratified by national Parliaments.

VAT: Football

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* the Football Association and *(c)* the Fitness Industry Association on the proposed change in VAT status for five-a-side league football; [68573]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the proposed change in the taxation status of five-a-side football from supply of land to providing a league service and the associated change in VAT status; and if he will make a statement; [68574]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the proposed change in VAT status for five-a-side league football on levels of participation in five-a-side football *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the West Midlands and *(c)* in Dudley borough. [68576]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Bristol North West (Charlotte Leslie) on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 512W.

VAT: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of setting a reduced rate of value added tax for all domestic repair, maintenance and improvement projects that include sufficient energy efficiency improvements. [68113]

Mr Gauke: We keep the merits of applying a reduced rate of VAT to all domestic repairs, maintenance and improvement projects under review; including the significant costs and practical difficulties in applying such a relief.

The Green Deal, a DECC-led initiative, has been designed to help make energy efficient technology more affordable. The Green Deal will enable households and businesses to improve their energy efficiency at no upfront cost repaying the investment through the savings they can expect to make on their energy bills.

VAT: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effects of removing VAT from sporting and physical activity provision on levels of *(a)* participation and *(b)* public health; and if he will make a statement. [68577]

Mr Gauke: No assessment has been made.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Mrs Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on the potential effects on the economy of an increase in the rate of VAT. [68785]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor's, tax proposals, and forecasts of their effects on the economy, are set out in the Budget documentation.

Vulture Funds

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his *(a)* US and *(b)* French counterparts on steps to prevent vulture funds from those countries from suing for excessive claims in courts outside UK jurisdiction. [68883]

Mr Gauke: The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010 was made permanent on 25 May 2011.

The UK has shared information regarding this Act with the Paris Club, which includes the US and France. The UK will continue to share its experience of addressing non-participation in debt relief with all members of the Paris Club.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax credit expenditure was spent on *(a)* working and *(b)* non-working people in each year since the introduction of tax credits; to what tax credits this expenditure related; and if he will make a statement. [68127]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on entitlement to tax credits for in-work and out-of-work families is available in table 1.1 of the annual HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Annual Awards 2009-10". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-final-awards-may11.pdf

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 September 2011

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Lords Reform

Mr Watson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many responses he has received to his consultation on the draft House of Lords Reform Bill to date. [69775]

Mr Harper: The Government invited comments on the proposals in their White Paper and draft Bill on House of Lords reform, rather than launching a formal consultation. As of 18 August, the Government have received 65 representations.

Ministerial Meetings: News Corporation

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he last met *(a)* James Murdoch, *(b)* Rebekah Brooks and *(c)* Andy Coulson. [67364]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government are committed to publishing details of meetings with newspapers and other media proprietors, editors and senior executives.

Details of my meetings held with proprietors, editors and senior media executives, including James Murdoch and Rebekah Brooks, since the formation of the Government can be found on

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

I have had no meetings with Andy Coulson since he resigned from No. 10.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Management

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the roles and responsibilities are of the *(a)* Director of Policy and *(b)* Head of Policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and if he will make a statement. [68613]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 5 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Policy and Head of Policy at IPSA.

The Director of Policy's overall role is to oversee the strategic direction and management of policy development in IPSA, making recommendations to the Chief Executive and the IPSA Board.

The Head of Policy is the Director's deputy, and leads the policy team day to day. The team as a whole comprises four people, and as a small team, responsibilities are carried out flexibly.

The policy team advises the IPSA Board on a range of policies and issues. It has taken the lead in the development and maintenance of the MPs' Expenses Scheme, and associated reviews and consultation, including the current review of MPs' staffing needs. The team will lead the policy work on MPs' pay and, when IPSA receives the powers, MPs' pensions.

The Director also has a role as a member of the IPSA executive's senior leadership team, providing direction and support to the organisation as a whole. The Director chairs IPSA's contingency panel, which meets weekly, to consider any contingency applications from MPs. The Head of Policy will chair the panel meetings in the Director's absence.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority hold *(a)* a Government Procurement Card and *(b)* other corporate charge cards. [68889]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 5 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority hold (a) a Government Procurement Card and (b) other corporate charge cards.

Two members of staff at IPSA hold Government Procurement Cards. No other corporate charge cards are used.

Members: Allowances

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the Answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 956-7W, on Members: allowances, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority intends to make an assessment of the effectiveness of its schemes in restoring public confidence and trust in *(a)* hon. Members first elected in May 2010, *(b)* other hon. Members and *(c)* Parliament. [64903]

Mr Charles Walker *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 5 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether IPSA intends to make an assessment of the effectiveness of its schemes in restoring public confidence and trust in (a) hon. Members first elected in May 2010, (b) other hon. Members and (c) Parliament.

Through the MPs' Expenses Scheme, IPSA has put in place a set of rules, underpinned by the principle of independent regulation, which, it believes will contribute to the restoration of public confidence in the manner in which MPs' expenses and costs are reimbursed.

We commissioned an opinion poll as part of the first annual review of the MPs' Expenses Scheme in November 2010. We will carry out further such surveys as part of our regular review of the scheme. In doing so, we have no plans to distinguish between MPs elected in 2010 and other MPs.

A recent survey commissioned by the National Audit Office found that 55% of the general public thought that the situation with regard to MPs' expenses had improved in the last year.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average time taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority was to transfer funds to an hon. Member after receipt of an expense claim in the latest period for which figures are available. [68485]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average time taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority was to transfer funds to an hon. Member after receipt of an expense claim in the latest period for which figures are available.

In July 2011, the latest month for which figures are available, the average time to process claims from receipt of evidence to reimbursement by bank transfer was between six and eight working days. During this period, 98.61% of claims requiring reimbursement were processed within the 12 working day target.

As of the week commencing 8 August 2011, for which provisional figures are available, the average time to process claims from receipt of evidence to reimbursement by bank transfer was between three and six working days. During this period, 98.75% of claims requiring reimbursement were processed within the 12 working day target.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 437W, on Members: allowances, what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the *(a)* cost-effectiveness and *(b)* impact on public confidence in Parliament of (i) real-time publication of claims and (ii) annual publication of claims. [69100]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 5 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 14 July 2011, Official Report, column 437W, on Members: allowances, what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the (a) cost-effectiveness and (b) impact on public confidence in Parliament of (i) real-time publication of claims and (ii) annual publication of claims.

IPSA assessed the cost-effectiveness of real-time publication of claims as compared to monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly publication of claims and found that real-time publication would be considerably more costly than bi-monthly publication. Our view is that less frequent publication would not be in the interest of either the public or of MPs.

IPSA also publishes annualised totals once each year. It would be neither practical nor cost-effective to publish totals more regularly, nor would it provide an accurate picture of expenditure.

More specific data on the comparative costs of different approaches to publication is available in IPSA's submission to the Speaker's Committee for the IPSA (11 SCIPSA 24, available via the Committee's webpage at www.parliament.uk/scipsa).

IPSA's approach to public confidence is set out in its answer to parliamentary question 62624 (Schemes), 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 395W.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority uses any measure to assess the effect of its schemes on public confidence in Parliament; and whether any such measurements have been made. [69126]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 5 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority uses any measure to assess the effect of its schemes on public confidence in Parliament; and whether any such measurements have been made.

IPSA's approach to public confidence is set out in its answer to PQ 62624 (Schemes) on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 395W.

Through the MPs' Expenses Scheme, IPSA has put in place a set of rules, underpinned by the principle of independent regulation, which we believe will contribute to the restoration of public confidence in the manner in which MPs' expenses and costs are reimbursed.

We undertook a poll of the public as part of the annual review of the MPs' Expenses Scheme in November 2010 and a majority of respondents believed that IPSA would ensure that MPs were only paid legitimate expenses. We will carry out further surveys as part of our regular review of the expenses scheme.

A recent survey commissioned by the National Audit Office found that 55% of the general public felt that the situation with regard to MPs' expenses had improved in the last year.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the findings of the National Audit Office's survey of hon. Members published on 7 July 2011 in respect of the proportion of hon. Members who have decided not to claim expenses to which they believed they were entitled since the inception of the administration of hon. Members' expenses by this Authority. [69127]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 5 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the findings of the National Audit Office's survey of hon. Members published on 7 July 2011 in respect of the proportion of hon. Members who have decided not to claim expenses to which they believed they were entitled since the inception of the administration of hon. Members expenses by this Authority.

We will consider the findings of the survey when we respond to the report of the Public Accounts Committee later this year and when considering future improvements to the MPs' Expenses Scheme and the system which we operate.

The National Audit Office noted in their report that the principal reason cited by MPs for not claiming an expense was that "it was only a small claim". We also note the NAO's recommendation to MPs that

> "MPs should submit claims for all expenditure they legitimately incur as part of their work, and should make contingency claims when the total value of their needs exceeds the budget available to them. Unless they do so, it will be difficult for IPSA to understand the real cost of supporting MPs to do their jobs well".

This supports the advice that IPSA has given to MPs since we began operations.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what consideration the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has given to requiring published data to be comparable, disaggregated and standardised in formulating its policy on claims publication. [69128]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 5 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what consideration the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has given to requiring published data to be comparable, disaggregated and standardised in formulating its policy on claims publication.

IPSA gave consideration to these points when formulating its publication policy.

We now publish data on expense claims made on a bi-monthly basis on our website

www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk

These data are published in a standard, disaggregated format, which ensures that they are easily comparable.

We have also published aggregated data for the financial year 2010/11, which allows for further useful comparison.

WALES

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what methodology her Department used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69281]

Mr David Jones: As a small Government Department the Wales Office uses the procurement buying power of a large Government Department, the Ministry of Justice, to ensure maximum savings to the public purse.

Upon her arrival the Secretary of State introduced a standard class rail travel rule for Ministers and all staff at the Wales Office. This policy has more than halved the Department's travel costs for last year, saving us more than £91,000 compared to 2009-10.

In addition to this, the introduction of a new government contract for hotel bookings has also saved the Department over £12,000 in 2010-11 compared to the previous financial year.

Energy Supply

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has met *(a)* Welsh Government Ministers and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change regarding the devolution of decision-making on consent for energy projects with a generating capacity of 50 to 100 megawatts. [69395]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with the First Minister and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change regarding energy policy in Wales.

The current system provides a streamlined regime that minimises delays and ensures investor confidence.

We have no plans to devolve the decision-making on consent for energy projects with a generating capacity of 50-100 megawatts.

PRIME MINISTER

Health Professions: Meetings

Ian Lucas: To ask the Prime Minister how many face-to-face meetings he has had with *(a)* social workers, *(b)* teachers, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* doctors, *(e)* police officers and *(f)* business leaders since his appointment. [68826]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) and the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) on Monday 5 September, *Official Report*, column 4W.

Overseas Visits

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [68482]

The Prime Minister: We have good relations with Saudi Arabia. A number of ministerial visits have already been made in 2011, and I expect to make visits to the Gulf States, including Saudi Arabia, in the future.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what plans he has to discuss human rights in Russia and the issue of prisoners of conscience with his counterpart during his visit to Russia; [68608]

(2) which *(a)* companies, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* business people will accompany him as part of the business delegation to Russia in September 2011; and if he will make a statement; [68609]

(3) which Government Ministers will be accompanying him on his visit to Russia; [68610]

(4) whether he intends to raise the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights concerning Mikhail Khodorkovsky during his visit to Russia; and if he will make a statement. [68611]

Robert Halfon: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he plans to meet *(a)* human rights groups and *(b)* other non-governmental organisations during his visit to Russia; and if so, which ones; [69004]

(2) if he will raise *(a)* the case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev and *(b)* human rights in general with the President of the Russian Federation during his forthcoming visit to Russia. [69006]

Sajid Javid: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to meet *(a)* human rights groups and *(b)* other non-governmental organisations during his visit to Russia; and if so, which ones. [69013]

The Prime Minister: Russia is an important partner for the UK in international security, trade and commerce; a country with whom we seek frank and productive relations. My proposed visit will be a key opportunity to strengthen our foreign policy cooperation, to discuss human rights issues and the rule of law, and to develop further our significant and mutually beneficial commercial relations. No topics will be off limits. Further details will be forthcoming.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Sexual Offences

Philip Davies: To ask the Attorney-General in how many cases where an offender has been charged with rape and murder *(a)* the rape charge was not prosecuted and *(b)* the offender was not placed on the Violent and Sex Offender Register in the latest period for which figures are available. [69734]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) maintains no central record of the number of defendants prosecuted where an offender has been charged with rape and murder and *(a)* the rape charge was not prosecuted and *(b)* the offender was not placed on the Violent and Sex Offender Register.

This information is held on individual case files, and may only be retrieved by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office in England and Wales which would incur a disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the recommendations of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development on consulting farmers on the technology required to increase productivity in the food sector. [69446]

Mr Paice: The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development report was published in 2008 and is followed by the more recent Foresight report: The Future of Food and Farming[1]. DEFRA is working with Government funders, research councils and the agriculture industry to boost technology through innovative collaborative research and development via the Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform (and formerly LINK Programmes) to increase productivity without impacting on the environment.

[1] http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/projects/published-projects/global-food-and-farming-futures/reports-and-publications

Biodiversity

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress has been made towards international co-ordination of the conservation of high seas biodiversity; [69391]

(2) what her policy is on the conservation of biodiversity on the high seas. [69392]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to working with our international partners to improve the conservation of high seas biodiversity. The UK played a key role in the establishment in 2010 of six High Seas Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the North East Atlantic under the OSPAR Convention, building on the work that established the world's first High Seas MPA under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in 2009.

The UK fully supports the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 61/105 and 64/72, particularly as they relate to the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from the impact of bottom fishing on the high seas. The UK has worked within the EU to review the actions that have been taken to date and what still needs to be done to ensure the long term protection of these ecosystems and deep-sea species.

Progress has been made, for example, in establishing an access regime for vessels engaged in deep-sea fishing in the North East Atlantic and on the protection of the high seas where no regional fisheries management organisation exists. However, more work is needed in a number of areas, for example to improve the scientific knowledge on deep-sea species and their habitats.

Through the International Whaling Commission, the UK will continue to strongly support the moratorium on commercial whaling, introduced in 1985/86 and will continue to work with other countries to achieve greater conservation and protection of cetaceans.

However, the Government recognise that threats to high seas biodiversity are increasing and further work is required. In the Government's Natural Environment White Paper we have set out a commitment to work towards delivering a new global mechanism to regulate the conservation of marine biodiversity in the high seas. We consider that such an agreement, working within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, should set up a clear means of designating High Seas Marine Protected Areas, building on the work undertaken in Regional Seas Agreements, such as OSPAR.

We have already made progress on this issue. Working in co-operation with other nations we secured agreement for the United Nations General Assembly to consider, at their meeting in September 2011, a recommendation to consider the need for a new multilateral agreement which would cover MPAs, and environmental impact assessments for deep sea activities. The UK, working with our EU partners and other nation states, is committed to press for a global response to the management of high seas biodiversity and sees this recommendation as a key step in the process.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria will need to be met by groups of farmers who are granted a licence to cull badgers to control bovine TB. [69404]

Mr Paice: Applications for a culling licence must meet a range of strict criteria. These are set out in the draft guidance to Natural England, on which we are currently consulting with key stakeholders, at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/files/bovinetb-guidance-ne-110719-annexa.pdf

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects badger culling under the revised guidance to begin. [69405]

Mr Paice: If we decide to proceed with a policy of badger control, we propose to take a precautionary approach through a pilot of the policy, initially licensing two areas in the first year. Monitoring of controlled shooting in these areas would be overseen by a panel of independent scientific experts. If the results confirm our assumptions about the effectiveness and humaneness of controlled shooting, then and only then would the policy, be rolled out more widely.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many responses were received to the first public consultation into a cull of badgers to control bovine TB. [69406]

Mr Paice: As set out in the "Consultation on Guidance to Natural England on the implementation and enforcement of a badger control policy", 59,540 responses were received to the public consultation carried out in autumn 2010. The summary of responses is available at:

www.archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-control-measures/

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of a programme of gassing badgers in each 150 square kilometre area approved for a badger cull to control bovine TB. [69407]

Mr Paice: As set out in the 'Consultation on Guidance to Natural England on the implementation and enforcement of a badger control policy', published on 19 July, we are proposing to permit only two culling methods, controlled shooting and cage-trapping and shooting. We have ruled out gassing, snaring, lethal injections and oral poisons for the time being on grounds of humaneness, effectiveness, cost or risks to other wildlife.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government about the potential for a joint strategy to combat bovine TB in affected areas which cross the border between England and Wales. [69408]

Mr Paice: Bovine TB is a devolved issue and, while we work closely with the Welsh Government, we have no current plans for a joint strategy. However, we recognise that this disease does not respect national borders and will continue to co-operate with the Welsh Government and seek to coordinate activity as far as possible.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered as part of the bovine TB eradication programme in each of the last 10 years. [69410]

Mr Paice: The following table shows the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine TB control measures, as test reactors, inconclusive reactors or direct contacts, in England, in the last 10 years.

	Number of cattle slaughtered
2010	24,899
2009	25,557
2008	27,455
2007	19,794
2006	16,007
2005	23,135
2004	17,306
2003	17,551
2002	18,443
2001	4,438

Source:
DEFRA's VetNet Animal Health database

Carbon Emissions

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made on the introduction of mandatory reporting of carbon emissions by UK-based corporations. [69438]

Mr Paice: A public consultation on options to make corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions more widespread and consistent was held between 11 May and 5 July. The Secretary of State is currently considering the Government's response to the consultation and will make an announcement in the autumn.

Fishing Quotas

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed quota allocations for UK fish stocks are fished by *(a)* foreign companies and *(b)* UK-based companies which are majority-owned subsidiaries of overseas companies. [69842]

Richard Benyon: Information regarding the holdings of Fixed Quota Allocation units is recorded in terms of the ownership of licences or licence entitlements that the units are linked to. Ownership of the licence is based primarily on the ownership of the vessels the licences are linked to, with the details of the individual person, groups of persons or companies being those that are recorded by the UK Register of Shipping and Seamen. Within the UK Register of Shipping and Seaman, the nationality of the individuals or companies concerned is not recorded. As such the information requested is not available.

Grasslands

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much financial support her Department plans to provide for natural grasslands in each of the next four financial years. [69293]

Richard Benyon: Fully natural grasslands are very rare in England and are limited to high altitude grasslands and, in the lowlands, some very exposed, unstable south-facing slopes in southern England on chalk/limestone where the prevailing environmental conditions prevent shrub and tree invasion. These rare natural grasslands do not require active management so agri-environment schemes are not required to maintain them.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of semi-natural grasslands to *(a)* carbon storage, *(b)* flood prevention, *(c)* water purification and *(d)* crop pollination; [69294]

(2) what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of grasslands to climate change mitigation through carbon storage and sequestration. [69301]

Richard Benyon: The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UKNEA) reported on 2 June 2011. This independent study, of which DEFRA was the major funder, considered the contribution of semi-natural grasslands to a wide variety of ecosystem services across the UK. Chapter 6 of the full technical report, available on the UK NEA website, gives details of the contribution that semi-natural grasslands make to carbon storage and sequestration, flood prevention, water purification and crop pollination, and these issues are further discussed in Chapter 14 – Regulating Services.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support her Department plans to provide to farmers to maintain semi-natural grasslands in each of the next four financial years. [69295]

Richard Benyon: Committed expenditure under the specific agri-environment scheme option aimed at maintaining semi-natural grassland stands at £3.9 million per annum. Further expenditure will be committed as new Environmental Stewardship agreements are negotiated. The current Rural Development Plan for England programme allows additional commitments for the management of semi-natural grasslands to be made up to 13 December 2013.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive to semi-natural grassland sites with an area of less than two hectares. [69296]

Richard Benyon: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No2) Regulations 2006 which transposes the directive, sets a two hectare threshold for uncultivated land or semi-natural areas.

Below two hectares screening notices can be used that disapply this threshold from a particular area of land. These may be served by Natural England if:

(a) it reasonably believes that an uncultivated land project is likely to be carried out on the land;

(b) the extent of the project would fall below the threshold applicable to it in the area where it would be carried out; and

(c) it considers, in accordance with selection criteria (relating to characteristic, location and potential impact of a project), that the project would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of semi-natural grassland which is protected by the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. [69297]

Richard Benyon: All semi-natural grassland types, apart from upland acid grassland, have been identified as priority habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). In England, the total area of BAP semi-natural priority grasslands is estimated to be 184,054 hectares.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No2) Regulations 2006 set a threshold for application of the directive to sites equal to or greater than two hectares. Consequently, the directive applies directly to 47% of the resource of BAP priority semi-natural grassland.

In addition, the regulations can also be applied to a particular area of land below this threshold in certain circumstances.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on widening the definition of semi-natural within the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive to include grasslands that support wildlife species other than plants. [69298]

Richard Benyon: Semi-natural areas are not defined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the definition of semi-natural is provided by the body responsible for nature conservation designations in each member state.

England's definition of semi-natural areas was set by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee working together with an expert group.

When DEFRA held a consultation on the draft EIA (Agriculture) Regulations in 2005 implementing the directive responses from environmentalists and farmers made quite clear the need for a transparent and easily applied test for semi-natural areas. We believe that the current regulations and guidance reflect this requirement.

We therefore have no plans to review this definition.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the status and extent of semi-natural grasslands outside sites of special scientific interest. [69299]

Richard Benyon: There are 184,054 hectares of Biodiversity Action Plan priority semi-natural grassland habitat in England. Approximately 33% (60.738 hectares) of this is not within sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

A sample survey undertaken in 2005 showed that an average of 21% of the lowland semi-natural grassland outside SSSIs was in favourable condition.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the level of *(a)* semi-improved and *(b)* intensively-managed improved grassland in each of the next four years. [69302]

Richard Benyon: Biodiversity 2020—our new strategy for biodiversity in England—includes outcomes to be achieved for priority habitats by 2020. Priority habitats are those listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and include a number of different grassland habitats, for example lowland meadows and upland calcareous grassland.

These outcomes include increasing the proportion of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition to 90% by 2020 and increasing the overall extent of priority habitats by at least 200,000 hectares by 2020. The outcomes are to be achieved by 2020 and are not broken down by year.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the capacity of the Single Payment Scheme to take account of the environmental value of semi-natural grasslands. [69455]

Mr Paice: It is a condition of payment under the single payment scheme that farmers have to meet a range of environmental standards known as cross-compliance. These include a requirement for farmers to adhere to specific regulations in the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No 2) Regulations 2006. These regulations are designed to protect uncultivated land and semi-natural areas from being damaged by agricultural work. They also guard against possible negative environmental effects from the restructuring of rural land holdings. The regulations apply to projects that are greater than two hectares, but this threshold can be disapplied where it is thought that a project of less than 2 ha may have a significant impact on the environment. For example, this may be due to the particularly high environmental quality of the land or the cumulative impact of the project.

Cross-compliance also requires farmers to avoid over grazing or unsuitable supplementary feeding on natural or semi-natural vegetation.

There is a broader obligation in the EU rules governing cross-compliance that member states need to monitor the proportion of agricultural land that is 'permanent pasture' and maintain levels of 'permanent pasture' above a minimum ratio, set on a historic basis. However the EU definition of 'permanent pasture' does not distinguish between natural/semi-natural grassland of high environmental value and enriched and reseeded grassland of low environmental value so provides little protection to the former. The Task Force on Farming Regulation recognised this failing in the current system. The UK will consider this issue as part of the forthcoming negotiations to reform the CAP.

Marine Animals

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of scientific research concerning the global viability of marine life. [69548]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not carried out any such assessment. However, the UN regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment will be producing a first global integrated assessment of the state of the marine environment. This is due to be completed by 2014.

Ragwort

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have been fined for allowing ragwort to grow on highway verges since 2007. [69580]

Richard Benyon: Common ragwort is one of five injurious weeds specified in the Weeds Act 1959. The Act does not make it illegal to have weeds growing on land, but provides that the Secretary of State can serve an enforcement notice for the occupier to take action to prevent the spread of weeds to neighbouring land. If an occupier of land unreasonably fails to comply with an enforcement notice, he or she may be guilty of an offence, and, on conviction, liable to a fine.

Since 2007, no local authorities have been fined in connection with the 1959 Act. However, Natural England, the agency responsible for enforcing the Act, has followed up complaints about the proliferation of ragwort with various measures including site inspections, clearance requests and the issue of enforcement notices.

Water Supply

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the provision of capital funding for fencing or water supply through the Entry Level Stewardship scheme. [69300]

Mr Paice: There is no capital funding available in the Entry Level Stewardship scheme.

The Uplands Entry Level Stewardship scheme contains capital works options for boundary restoration and fencing in certain circumstances. Capital payments are not available for water supply as part of this scheme.

JUSTICE

Civil Disorder

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what types of offences perpetrators of public disorder in August 2011 were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* prosecuted for; and what the sentences were in each case. [69253]

Mr Blunt: We are currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

As the publication notes, the Chief Statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. It is intended to release further data on 8 September. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the level of assistance available to victims of crime during recent public disorder; what response he provided; and if he will make a statement. [69826]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has not received any representations on the level of assistance available to victims of crime during the recent public disorder.

The Government are determined to ensure that victims of crime receive the support they need. This year the Ministry of Justice has provided more than £47 million in funding to victims' organisations, including £38 million to Victim Support. Any victim of the recent public disorder can contact Victim Support for free and confidential practical advice, emotional support, and information about the criminal justice process and other forms of support that may be appropriate.

In line with recent announcements by the Deputy Prime Minister, we are also considering how best to afford those affected by the riots the opportunity to explain the impact of the crimes upon them and to make sure that offenders face up to the consequences of their actions.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average *(a)* fine and *(b)* sentence was for each offence committed during the recent incidents of public disorder (i) in each police force area, (ii) by sex of the offender and (iii) by age group of the offender; and if he will make a statement; [69830]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were (i) arrested and (ii) prosecuted for each criminal offence during the recent incidents of public disorder; and if he will make a statement; [69831]

(3) how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* fines were imposed for (i) vandalism, (ii) graffiti, (c) theft, (iv) criminal damage and (v) anti-social behaviour in each district and unitary council area in England during recent public disorder in respect of people (A) of each sex and (B) in each age group; and if he will make a statement. [69834]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes, the chief statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. It is intended to release further data on 8 September. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history.

Civil Disorder: Criminal Injuries Compensation

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims have been submitted under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in respect of incidents during the disturbances in August 2011; and what estimate he has made of the cost of compensation which will be paid in respect of those claims. [69785]

Mr Djanogly: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) has put special measures in place to track claims arising from these disturbances, and has received two such claims as of 18 August. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008 (the Scheme) gives people two years from the date of the incident in which they were injured to apply for compensation, so it is too early to say what the total number of claims might be. CICA cannot currently estimate the cost of those claims already in the system because they will need to receive and assess the relevant evidence for each case.

Conveyancing: Estate Agents

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will examine the practice of solicitors and conveyancers paying referral fees to estate agents; and if he will make a statement. [69764]

Mr Djanogly: This issue has been considered recently in the Office of Fair Trading's home buying and selling report and by the Legal Services Board (LSB). The Government are not currently pursuing further work specifically in relation to referral fees and estate agents, although it has indicated that it is sympathetic to a ban on referral fees in personal injury cases, and is currently considering the way forward.

Courts: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 322W and 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 241W, on courts: Sunderland, what recent progress has been made on the proposed rebuilding of court premises in Sunderland; and if he will make a statement. [69840]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice continues to review its investment priorities in the light of the current spending review settlement. The business case for new court facilities in Sunderland is in the process of being examined to establish its priority in an updated court building programme. Officials are reviewing all deferred court projects, of which the Sunderland project is one. The review is planned to be completed by February 2012. I will write to you with the outcome of the review when it is known and by March 2012 in any event.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68553]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has identified that there are key characteristics which define a helpline. These are:

That the telephone line provides tailored advice or guidance to citizens or businesses (as distinct from communicating simple, standard information, or providing a transactional service);

That the telephone line is citizen or business facing.

Using this definition, there are currently four helplines funded by the Ministry of Justice.

Legal Services Commission Community Legal Advice helpline

Provides free help and legal advice relating to debt, housing, employment, education and welfare benefits, tax credits and family issues for those eligible for legal aid.

Budget allocation: approximately £23,000,000

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority helpline

Provides tailored advice on applying for criminal injuries compensation.

Budget allocation: £1,177,516.

Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) Customer Contact Centre

Provides advice relating to OPG services including: the registration of Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs); the supervision of Deputies appointed by the Court of Protection; and the Public Guardian's role in adult safeguarding.

Budget allocation: £723,000[1].

Court Funds Office helpline

Provides tailored advice to clients and stakeholders.

Budget allocation: £250,000[1].

[1] CFO and OPG are both self-funding organisations. As a result, although these figures are included in our budget, each sum is reimbursed by CFO and OPG respectively.

Internship

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 706W, on departmental work experience, what the beginning and end dates were of each unpaid internship; for how many weeks each such intern worked in the Department; what the number of hours worked by each such intern per week was; and whether each such intern worked fixed hours. [69476]

Mr Djanogly: The three unpaid interns worked three days a week (22 hours) over three months during the period September 2009 and May 2010. There are no specific records to confirm whether the hours worked were fixed or not.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69511]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not record centrally the numbers of persons undertaking unpaid work experience. To establish this information will require an examination of locally held records and this will incur a disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Justice is developing a policy on work experience in order to meet its commitment to provide a minimum of 100 work placements during 2011-12.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legal aid costs were incurred in respect of women granted indefinite leave to remain under the domestic violence rule in 2009. [69479]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission does not record the reasons for granting indefinite leave to remain. It is therefore not possible to identify costs incurred in cases where women have been granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom on the ground of domestic violence.

Driving Under Influence: Sentencing

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to bringing forward proposals to increase sentences available for offences of causing death by dangerous driving by individuals over the legal limit for alcohol consumption. [69690]

Mr Blunt: The offence of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs or having failed either to provide a specimen for analysis or to permit analysis of a blood sample carries a maximum penalty of 14 years' custody. The offence of causing death by dangerous driving also has a maximum penalty of 14 years. We do not have any plans to change this.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the Employment and Support Allowance Appeals Tribunal Service in 2010-11. [69838]

Mr Djanogly: The total cost to the Tribunals Service of employment and support allowance (ESA) appeals during 2010-11 is calculated by multiplying the average cost of an individual first-tier tribunal-social security and child support case by the number of ESA appeals decided during the year. There were 176,600 ESA appeals decided in 2010-11 and the total estimated cost of clearing those cases, based on the above calculation, was £42.207 million.

European Court of Human Rights

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of which legislative provisions a final court judgement has referred to section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998 as the main provision determining the interpretation of such provisions; and which Convention right or rights were at issue in each case. [68672]

Mr Djanogly: The information is not available in the form requested and could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Homicide

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of requests by the families of murder victims for a specific exclusion zone to be imposed on the offender following release have been met in full in each year since 2005. [69459]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally by this Department.

It is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether a life sentenced prisoner may be released from custody on completion of his tariff (that is, the minimum period which must be served in custody for the purposes of punishment and deterrence). It is also for the Parole Board to determine the conditions to which the life sentenced prisoner should be subject on release.

Under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, the families of murder victims have the right to make representations to the Parole Board as to the licence conditions, including exclusion zones, to which the life sentenced prisoner should be made subject on release from custody. Victims make such representations through a victim liaison officer provided by a probation trust.

The probation offender manager, who will be responsible for enforcing the licence conditions, also makes recommendations to the Parole Board as to the licence conditions to which the life sentenced prisoner should be subject on release, and in doing so must consider not only victims' representations but also the need to promote the offender's rehabilitation.

In order to be lawful, licence conditions, including exclusion zones, must in every case be necessary and proportionate to manage the risks presented by an offender.

Human Rights

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 144W, on human rights, whether there have been further declarations of incompatibility under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 since 26 April 2011. [68583]

Mr Djanogly: There have been no further declarations of incompatibility under section 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 since 26 April 2011. The last such declaration was made in November 2010 in the case of R (on the application of Royal College of Nursing and others) *v.* Secretary of State for Home Department.

Legal Costs

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the likely effects of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on the capacity of *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* small businesses and *(c)* insolvency practitioners to pursue delinquent directors in insolvency litigation. [67484]

Mr Djanogly: Ministry of Justice officials are in ongoing contact with officials at HMRC and the Insolvency Service regarding the impact of the reforms on insolvency proceedings.

Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many previous convictions and for what offence each person serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection had; [69823]

(2) what offences each person serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection was convicted of; how many previous convictions each such person had; what the previous offences were in each case; and what the equivalent figures were in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [69829]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 as follows shows the number of prisoners serving an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection (IPP) by offence as at 30 June 2008 to 2010. Table 2 shows the numbers of previous convictions for these prisoners. Data on the offences for which these prisoners were previously convicted are not held centrally.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Population of prisoners serving an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection (IPP), England and Wales, 2008, 2009 and 2010

			As at 30 June
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
All offences	4,461	5,205	5,659
Manslaughter	90	115	138
Other homicide and attempted homicide	223	258	289
Other violence against the person	1,322	1,577	1,727
Rape	492	608	709
Other sexual offences	500	574	663
Robbery	1,206	1,327	1,368
Arson	243	279	275
Other offences	385	467	490

Table 2: IPP[1] prisoners in prison establishments under sentence at 30 June 2008, 2009 and 2010, by proportion of previous convictions[2], England and Wales

		Proportion of offenders by number of previous convictions (percentage)					
At 30 June	*IPP population*	*0*	*1 to 2*	*3 to 6*	*7 to 10*	*11 to 14*	*15+*
2008	4,461	9	12	19	17	13	29
2009	5,205	9	13	20	17	13	28
2010	5,659	9	13	20	17	13	29

[1] Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection (IPP).

[2] Based on data matched to the Police National Computer.

Data Source and Quality:

These figures have been compiled using the Ministry of Justice's extract from the Police National Computer. Like any large scale recording system the PNC is subject to errors with data entry and recording. The PNC is regularly updated so that further analysis at a later date will generate revised figures.

Reoffenders

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has commissioned on the reasons for the differences in reoffending rates of male prisoners *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 21. [69568]

Mr Blunt: Research on the reasons for the differences in reoffending rates of male prisoners under and over the age of 21 has not been commissioned. However the MoJ publishes annual National Statistics on the re-convictions of adults (aged 18 or over) and the reoffending of young people (aged 10 to 17).

Re-conviction on adults discharged from prison is available in Table A5 at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/reoffending/adults.htm

While reoffending data on young people discharged from prison are in Table A5 at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/reoffending/juveniles.htm

We recognise that the reoffending rate for young people leaving custody is too high. Custody for young people is a last resort and used only for the most serious and persistent offenders. Young people leaving custody are therefore a challenging group with complex and wide-ranging problems which require intensive intervention and support.

Small Claims

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many small claims settlements set at a rate of £1 or less per month for a total amount payable of £50 or more were adjudicated by the Court Service in 2005. [69573]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally on the number of small claim cases which had a settlement rate set at £1 or less per month for a total amount payable of £50 or more in the county courts.

The administrative computer systems in the county courts contain the records of all small claim hearings which take place in England and Wales. However the systems do not identify the outcome of these hearings, the total amounts the defendant must pay back, as well as the rate at which they should pay these back are not recorded. Therefore the information requested can be obtained through the manual examination of the electronic records only at disproportionate cost.

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there is a standard criterion for the repayment rates set by the small claims court service. [69574]

Mr Djanogly: There is no standard criterion set by the Ministry of Justice for determining repayment rates following judgment in small claims proceedings within the county courts. Setting repayments after a small claims hearing is a judicial function governed by the County Court Act 1984.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against decision on application for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance there have been in St Helens South and Whiston constituency in each of the last three years; and how many such appeals were upheld. [68904]

Mr Djanogly: HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) do not have an administrative office in St Helens South and Whiston. Appeals submitted within the right hon. Member's constituency are heard at the Social Security and Child Support hearing venues in Warrington and Runcorn. The following table shows the number of disability living allowance and employment and support allowance (ESA) appeals received and the number of decisions found in favour of the appellant in the Warrington and Runcorn venues in each of the last three years.

Warrington and Runcorn hearing venues

	Disability living allowance appeals		*Employment support allowance appeals*	
	Received	*Upheld (decision in favour of the appellant)*	*Received*	*Upheld (decision in favour of the appellant)*
2008-09	880	190	20	0
2009-10	940	130	1,150	90
2010-11	1,000	260	2,300	430

Note:
The above data are for appeals received by HMCTS and allocated to Warrington and Runcorn venues. The figures may include some appeals from outside St Helens South and Whiston constituency and may not include all constituency cases. ESA was introduced in October 2008 and replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB). The first appeals against ESA decisions were not received until January 2009 and this is reflected in the figures.

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time was between submission of an appeal against a decision on the award of *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance and the date of the appeal hearing in (i) St Helens South and Whiston constituency, (ii) Merseyside and (iii) England in (A) the latest period for which figures are available and (B) each of the last three years. [68905]

Mr Djanogly: HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) do not have an administrative office in St Helens and Whiston. Appeals submitted within the right hon. Member's constituency are heard at the Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) hearing venues in Warrington and Runcorn. The following table shows the average time in weeks from submission of an appeal to HM Courts and Tribunals Service until the date of the first appeal hearing for employment and support allowance (ESA) and disability living allowance (DLA) appeals.

Average appeal waiting time to first hearing

Weeks

	Warrington and Runcorn venues		*Liverpool venue*[1]		*England venues*	
	ESA	*DLA*	*ESA*	*DLA*	*ESA*	*DLA*
2008-09	6.4	10.3	2.0	11.6	3.8	12.1
2009-10	10.8	16.9	12.2	17.4	12.6	16.3
2010-11	15.6	24.7	16.4	23.0	19.5	23.0
April-June 2011	20.6	29.6	21.1	28.2	25.2	29.6

[1] HMCTS do not have a definition of Merseyside therefore the data supplied relate to ESA and DLA appeals processed by the Liverpool administrative centre. ESA was introduced in October 2008 and replaced incapacity benefit. The first appeals against ESA decisions were not received until January 2009 and this is reflected in the figures.

Longer than usual waiting times for a hearing have resulted from an unexpectedly high level of appeals received across the Department for Work and Pensions. In response HMCTS has significantly increased its capacity. The most recent published management information shows that, nationally, 30% more SSCS appeals were cleared between April 2011 and June 2011 when compared with the same period in 2010 and 71% more when compared with the same period in 2009.

Bill of Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of developing a dedicated website for the Commission on a UK Bill of Rights. [69110]

Mr Djanogly: The web pages of the Commission on a Bill of Rights are based on the existing justice.gov.uk platform. Any costs associated with them relate only to staff time, and were met by the Ministry of Justice, as the Commission's sponsoring department, using existing resources and budgets.

Young Offenders: Remand in Custody

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were *(a)* remanded in custody or *(b)* subject to court ordered secure remand for a week or less in the last year for which information is available. [69423]

Mr Blunt: Data on remand episodes, which are the periods a young person spends in custody, are recorded by the Youth Justice Board on their secure accommodation clearing house system. Data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice do not include the length of time spent on remand.

This could be ascertained by reference to individual court files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. The following table shows the number of custodial episodes, of one week or less, ended in the secure estate during the financial year 2009-10. As a young person may have more than one remand episode in a year, the actual number of individuals will be less than the total shown.

Custodial episodes for children and young people remanded for a week or less, for the financial year 2009-10

Remand type	*Number*
Remand to custody	974
Remand to secure accommodation	147
Total	1,121

Source: YJB secure accommodation clearing house system database.

TREASURY

Economic Growth

17. **Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential implications for the economy of the most recent figures for economic growth. [70011]

Danny Alexander: Our economic policy objective is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility's forecasts published at Budget take full account of the policy measures announced in both the spending review and Budget 2011. The OBR forecasts the economy to grow throughout 2011 and in every year of the forecast. It will publish a fully updated forecast in the autumn.

18. **Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential implications for the economy of the most recent figures for economic growth. [70012]

Danny Alexander: Our economic policy objective is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility's forecasts published at Budget take full account of the policy measures announced in both the spending review and Budget 2011. The OBR forecasts the economy to grow throughout 2011 and in every year of the forecast. It will publish a fully updated forecast in the autumn.

Economic Policy

19. **Alec Shelbrooke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on UK economic policy. [70013]

Mr Hoban: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and OECD hold frank bilateral discussions with each of their member countries on a regular basis. Most recently, IMF staff visited London in late May and early June and met various institutions, including HM Treasury, as part of their economic surveillance function. The IMF published their staff report for this consultation on 1 August 2011. The IMF concluded that:

> "Strong fiscal consolidation is underway and remains essential to achieve a more sustainable budgetary position, thus reducing fiscal risks."

Public Sector Pay

20. **Gavin Shuker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of public sector workers who will receive a salary increase of £250 in 2011-12. [70014]

Danny Alexander: At least £250 will be paid to all those earning £21,000 or less in work forces under ministerial control—including the NHS, teachers, the armed forces, prisons and the civil service.

The pay decisions for other work forces do not fall under ministerial control, including the devolved Administrations, local authorities and public corporations. We do not have information about the number of workers receiving the £250 in these sectors. However, Government expect these employers to exercise similar restraint and regard for the fairness agenda.

Domestic Energy

21. **Nic Dakin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of recent trends in domestic energy prices. [70015]

Justine Greening: The Government consider a range of factors when assessing prospects for the economy. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. It will publish a fully updated forecast in the autumn.

23. **Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of recent trends in domestic energy prices. [70017]

Justine Greening: The Government consider a range of factors when assessing prospects for the economy. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. It will publish a fully updated forecast in the autumn.

VAT

22. **Pamela Nash:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on consumer confidence of the change in the basic rate of VAT. [70016]

Mr Gauke: Sustainable public finances will support confidence in the medium-term.

Decisive action taken by the Government in the spending review and June Budget, including the increase in VAT, will put the public finances and spending on a sustainable footing.

Tax Avoidance

24. **Dr Huppert:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce tax avoidance by large organisations and wealthy individuals. [70018]

Mr Gauke: The Government are determined to reduce tax avoidance, including by large organisations and wealthy individuals, to protect the Exchequer and maintain fairness for the taxpayer. Their strategic approach, supported by HMRC's new anti-avoidance strategy, was set out in the Budget document 'Tackling Tax Avoidance'. The Government's commitment to tackling avoidance has been underlined by their reinvestment of £917 million in HMRC which will enable it to better tackle tax avoidance and evasion.

Cheques

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to establish which Government departments and agencies do not accept payment by cheque; and if he will make a statement; [68597]

(2) what advice his Department has provided to *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other public bodies and organisations on the acceptance of cheques as a means of payment; and if he will make a statement. [68598]

Justine Greening: The Treasury provide guidance on banking issues in Annex 5.7 of Managing Public Money (MPM). MPM sets out principles for dealing with resources used in the public sector including use of cheques to process payment and receipts. Departments and their agencies are best placed to decide on the methods of payment that they are willing to accept.

Coastal Communities Fund

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Big Lottery's Big Fund will be able to delegate decision-making on the allocation of the Coastal Communities Fund to local authorities or statutory development agencies in Scotland for applications within their areas; [69664]

(2) who will be consulted in Scotland on the criteria for allocation of the Coastal Communities Fund; and what timetable has been set for any such consultation. [69668]

Danny Alexander: The Government will work closely with the Big Lottery Fund and the devolved Administrations on the details of how the Coastal Communities Fund will operate, including how decisions will be made and how best to take the fund forward with local stakeholders.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the priorities and criteria for the use of the Coastal Communities Fund in Scotland will be uniform across Scotland or will allow for variation between different geographical areas. [69665]

Danny Alexander: The Government have announced that there will be separate arrangements for the Highlands and Islands and the rest of Scotland. Further details will be announced in due course.

Corporation Tax

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government will be represented at The Working Party on Tax Questions—Direct Taxation meeting to be held in Brussels on 6 September 2011 to examine the proposal for a common consolidated corporate tax base; and what his policy is on *(a)* that proposal and *(b)* the work of the working party. [69252]

Mr Gauke: Government officials attend the meetings of the Working Party on Tax Questions—Direct Taxation. The Government believe is it important to attend such working parties to ensure British interests are represented. We will not agree to any proposal that would jeopardize our ability to shape our own tax policy and stop us from achieving our objective of creating the most competitive corporate tax regime in the G20.

Corporation Tax

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of companies owing unpaid corporation taxes of *(a)* less than £10,000, *(b)* between £10,001 and £25,000, *(c)* between £25,001 and £50,000, *(d)* between £50,001 and £100,000 and *(e)* more than £100,000 in each region in the last five years; and how much was owed in each such category in each such year. [67780]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available and could be researched only at disproportionate cost.

Credit Unions

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to support the promotion of credit unions to disadvantaged and vulnerable people; and if he will make a statement. [69751]

Mr Hoban: The Government have committed to foster diversity, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry, as set out in the coalition's programme for Government.

On 3 March the Department for Work and Pensions announced a £73 million Modernisation Fund to help credit unions expand their services. This is subject to a feasibility study which closes in September. An update can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/other-specialists/the-growth-fund/latest-news/

On 12 April the Treasury made the Mutual Societies (Electronic Communications) Order 2011. This allows credit unions and other mutuals to communicate with their members electronically.

Further, on 19 July the draft Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order 2011 was laid in Parliament for its final period of scrutiny. It will present many opportunities for credit unions to develop their services, attract investment and expand their membership further.

Publicity

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms between (A) November 1999 and June 2001, (B) May 2002 and June 2007 and (C) June 2007 and January 2008; and what the total cost to the public purse was. [68380]

Justine Greening: The Treasury's accounting system does not differentiate between types of advertising media and prior to 2005-06 did not separately identify advertising spending and accordingly the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Spending on advertising between March 2005 and June 2007 was £483,000 and between June 2007 and January 2008 was £140,000. Spending in real terms can be calculated using the GDP deflator series available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Departmental Billing

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many late payments his Department has made to contractors between *(a)* November 1999 and June 2001, *(b)* May 2002 and June 2007 and *(c)* June 2007 and January 2008; and what the cost to the public purse was of any (i) penalty charges or (ii) interest charges incurred in those periods. [68396]

Justine Greening: The Department has not incurred any such penalty charges and interest charges for late payments costs since 2006.

Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68789]

Justine Greening: The Treasury received 1,685 letters from Members of the Commons or the Lords during June this year.

11 Downing Street: Operating Costs

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the running costs were of No. 11 Downing Street in 2010-11. [67843]

Justine Greening: By long-standing arrangement, the Treasury pays a contribution to the Cabinet Office for the rent and service charge of the space used by HM Treasury and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer within the Downing Street estate. For 2010-11, this contribution totalled £348,891.

Rail Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* first class and *(b)* all train travel by (i) Ministers, (ii) staff and (iii) special advisers in his Department between (A) November 1999 and June 2001, (B) May 2002 and June 2007 and (C) June 2007 and January 2008. [68344]

Justine Greening: Information relating to train travel spend for the periods November 1999 to June 2001 and May 2002 to June 2007 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Between June 2007 and January 2008 the Department spent £308,736 on first class train travel and £132,048 on standard class train travel.

Stationery

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of stationery purchased by his Department between *(a)* November 1999 and June 2001, *(b)* May 2002 and June 2007 and *(c)* June 2007 and January 2008. [68392]

Justine Greening: Information on spending prior to 2002 is no longer available due to the introduction of a new accounting system in that year. Spending on stationery between May 2002 and June 2007 was £1,446,000 and between June 2007 and January 2008 was £135,000.

Official Overseas Visits

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* staff and *(c)* special advisers in his Department between (i) November 1999 and June 2001 and (ii) May 2002 and June 2007 and (iii) June 2007 and January 2008; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit. [68362]

Justine Greening: Information on the number and cost of individual overseas visits is not held centrally and could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Economic and Monetary Union: Payments

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on expansion of the Single European Payment Area. [69305]

Mr Hoban: The Single Euro Payments Area will make electronic payments in Euros across the EEA as easy as domestic payments within one country are now. The Government supports the Single European Payment Area as long as it delivers real gains for consumers, businesses and the City; and provided it promotes competition between payment service providers and more innovation in the market.

Economic Situation: European Union

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the risk of a downgrading of the credit rating of bonds issued by the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in (i) Belgium, (ii) Bulgaria, (iii) Cyprus, (iv) the Czech Republic, (v) Denmark, (vi) Estonia, (vii) Finland, (viii) France, (ix)

Germany, (x) Greece, (xi) Hungary, (xii) Ireland, (xiii) Italy, (xiv) Latvia, (xv) Lithuania, (xvi) Luxembourg, (xvii) Malta, (xviii) the Netherlands, (xix) Poland, (xx) Portugal, (xxi) Romania, (xxii) Slovakia, (xxiii) Slovenia, (xxiv) Spain and (xxv) Sweden. [69481]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury routinely considers economic and financial risks as part of the normal process of policy development.

Energy: Prices

Stella Creasy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of recent trends in domestic energy prices. [70004]

Justine Greening: The Government consider a range of factors when assessing prospects for the economy. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. It will publish a fully updated forecast in the autumn.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Karen Lumley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of Equitable Life policyholders will have had their compensation claims processed by the end of September 2011. [69374]

Mr Hoban: Payments began on 30 June, and hundreds of payments have been made to date. The Scheme intends to make around £500 million worth of payments to eligible policyholders by April next year, which is a significant logistical exercise. To ensure that the required systems are fully tested and robust, the Scheme's, implementation plan is to make a low volume of payments initially. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the Scheme's complex payment processes are refined further.

EU Budget

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the outcome of the Council of Ministers on 25 July 2011 on the EU budget for 2012; and when he expects *(a)* the negotiations over the EU budget for 2012 to be concluded and *(b)* the budget to be approved; [69247]

(2) what representations he made at the Council of Ministers meeting on 25 July 2011 on the EU budget for 2012; and if he will make a statement; [69248]

(3) for what reasons the EU Council of Ministers agreed on 25 July 2011 to increase the amount of expenditure on administration in the EU between 2011 and 2012; [69251]

(4) with reference to page 23 of the explanatory memorandum to the draft budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012: Council position of 25 July 2011, for what reasons the EU Council of Ministers agreed to increase the amount of expenditure on the preservation and management of natural resources to 57,161,869,007 euro. [69765]

Justine Greening: On 25 July, Council agreed its position on the draft 2012 EU budget, under qualified majority voting and by written procedure. The Government have not supported this position, because they believe that further savings can and should have been made. The Government seek to deliver real budgetary restraint at EU level and will continue to work with others to get the very best deal possible for UK taxpayer in future negotiations on the 2012 EU budget.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the explanatory memorandum to the draft budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012: Council position of 25 July 2011 (13110/11) estimates a change in the net amount of revenue the EU will receive from value added tax-based own resource at the uniform rate between 2011 and 2012; and how much of the change in revenue will originate in the UK in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [69249]

Justine Greening: VAT-based contributions to the EU budget are agreed between the member states and the European Commission but, like forecasts of national tax receipts, are subject to change. The changes in the forecast for 2011 are therefore based on updated estimates for the UK and other member states.

The updated VAT-based revenues for 2011 and the initial bases for 2012 are as set out in Amending Budget No. 4/2011 and the 2012 draft Budget respectively:

2011: €14,125,977,050, of which the UK share is €2,525,317,500

2012: €14,498,917,425, of which the UK share is estimated to be €2,501,556,900.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the explanatory memorandum to the draft budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012: Council position of 25 July 2011 (13110/11) estimates a change in net amount of revenue the EU will receive from custom duties and sugar levies between 2011 and 2012; and how much of the change in revenue will originate in the UK in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [69250]

Justine Greening: The levels of revenue from the different own resources streams for the EU Budget change from one year to the next as the amounts from each resource are not set and estimates will change.

Amending Budget No. 4 to the EU Budget in 2011 estimates that revenue from Traditional Own Resources (TOR) (customs duties and sugar levies) in 2011 will be €17,867 million, of which the UK share is estimated to be €2,987.8 million. The draft 2012 EU Budget estimates that revenue from this source will be €19,294.6 million, with the UK share estimated to be €3,001.9 million.

Estimates for TOR in any EU Budget are purely indicative as member states pay across what they collect, less 25% which they retain byway of collection costs.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 23 of the explanatory memorandum to the draft budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012: Council position of 25 July 2011, for what reasons the EU Council of Ministers agreed to increase the amount of expenditure on sustainable growth to 55,269,657,370 euro. [69766]

Justine Greening: The EU Council agreed its position on the EU budget for 2012 on 25 July. The Government have not supported the Council's position of a 2.02%

increase in payments on 2011 levels, and were consistently praised for further savings across all heading areas of the budget which can and should have been made at this stage.

Heading 1 of the EU budget (sustainable growth) is made up of two sub-headings: heading 1 a (competitiveness for growth and employment) and heading 1 b (cohesion for growth and employment).

For heading 1 overall, Council agreed, compared to 2011 levels, to a 3.7% increase in payments to EUR 55.27bn, cuts of EUR 2.43 billion in payments compared to the commissions' draft budget.

Financial Services: Regulation

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to provide the Financial Conduct Authority with the powers to require independent financial advisers to issue more detailed personalised disclosures of costs and charges presented in an easily understandable format; and if he will make a statement. [69729]

Mr Hoban: Subject to European law, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) already has the power under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to make rules regarding the disclosure of costs and charges to consumers by financial advisers. The Financial Conduct Authority will have the same ability.

The FSA currently requires financial advisers to make disclosures about their status, remuneration and any charges taken from the products they sell. The way that product charges are explained is closely prescribed and, in some cases, these requirements are also harmonised at the EU level.

The FSA is reforming the retail investment market through the Retail Distribution Review (RDR). From the end of 2012, retail financial advisers will need to set their own advice charges which must be discussed and agreed with their clients beforehand. The cost of advice will be separated from any charges taken from the retail investment products sold as a result of that advice, which will increase transparency for the consumer.

Income Tax: Females

Amber Rudd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of persons adversely affected by the removal of the 10 pence tax rate in 2007 who were women. [67970]

Mr Gauke: 58% of the individuals whose 2008-09 income tax liabilities were increased by these changes were female.

This estimate is based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Income Tax: Scotland

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of persons affected by the removal of the 10 pence tax rate in 2007 who were resident in Scotland. [68420]

Mr Gauke: An estimated 9% of the individuals whose 2008-09 income tax liabilities were increased by these changes were resident in Scotland.

This estimate is based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Individual Savings Accounts: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of green individual saving accounts. [69316]

Mr Hoban: The Government are undertaking analysis into how investment in green industries can be increased. The ISA market is competitive and a number of providers have chosen to offer green, environmental or ethical ISAs.

The Government are currently considering how best to encourage additional investment in green infrastructure through the Green Investment Bank, and proposals on this were announced in Budget 2011 and further details in May 2011.

Loans: Republic of Ireland

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason he reduced the rate of interest on the loan to the Republic of Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [69849]

Mr Hoban: The euro area summit on 21 July agreed to lower the interest rate on euro area loans provided by the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) to Ireland. The Government welcomed this reduction in EFSF loan interest rates. This allows the UK to reduce the interest rate on our bilateral loan to Ireland, while ensuring all the benefit goes to Ireland and not to higher interest rates paid to euro area governments. The amount by which the interest rate will be reduced is under consideration. The Government will still be more than covering the cost of their borrowing. The loan can be drawn after the approval of the third quarterly review of Ireland's Memorandum of Understanding with the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission.

Local Government Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of increasing the rate of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board on levels of borrowing by local authorities during the comprehensive spending review period. [69349]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budgetary Responsibility (OBR) published a costing of the impact on capital expenditure financed by borrowing of the increase in Public Works Loan Board interest rates. This covered the spending review period and was published alongside spending review 2010 on 20 October 2011. This was subsequently revised at the OBR's Economic and Fiscal Outlook publication in November 2010 at Table A1, which can be found at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2010/

Members: Correspondence

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale of 23 February and 2 June 2011 on behalf of his constituent, Mr Marc Sutton. [69484]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on 30 March to set out the Government's overall position on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) levies, which was the subject of your constituent's correspondence. This letter was the Treasury's response to outstanding correspondence that hon. Members had raised. I replied on 10 June in response to the hon. Member for Weaver Vale's further letter of 2 June.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 30 June 2011 with regard to Ms E Matysiak. [69814]

Justine Greening: HMRC replied to the right hon. Member on 19 August 2011.

Minimum Wage

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigations HM Revenue and Customs' national minimum wage enforcement team have conducted into *(a)* companies and *(b)* labour providers in the (i) construction, (ii) care home, (iii) cleaning, (iv) hospitality and (v) catering sectors in each year since 2005. [69187]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not categorise employers who are subject to a national minimum wage inspection as companies or labour providers. HMRC does categorise employers according to a set of trade sectors. These trade sectors are:

Clothing/footwear
Hairdressing
Hospitality
Market services
Other services
Production/construction
Public services
Retail
Security/cleaning
Social care

The number of cases closed in each of the years and trade sectors requested is as follows.

	Construction/production	*Social care*	*security/cleaning*	*Hospitality*
2005-06	480	484	188	944
2006-07	382	414	129	733
2007-08	385	443	148	812
2008-09	412	322	145	1,050
2009-10	344	256	132	952
2010-11	265	213	150	675

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has considered extending the areas of eligibility for the national insurance contributions holiday scheme to include the South East; [68519]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on new businesses in the South East of not being eligible for the national insurance contributions holiday scheme. [68520]

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of extending the national insurance contributions holiday for businesses currently under the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [68515]

Mr Gauke: The information is as follows:

(i) The policy is designed to support new businesses in parts of the country that are most reliant on the public sector. The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday to all regions but believes the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the NICs holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

(ii) An impact assessment for the policy has been carried out and published which included a competition assessment:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget-updates/reg-nic-holiday.pdf

This concluded that there would not be any significant distortion to competition from the policy. This is a temporary scheme and the majority of businesses benefiting will be small and operating in local markets.

(iii) The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday scheme further but believes the best use of public funds is to target the NICs holiday at the early and most vulnerable stage for a new business. The policy is designed to assist new businesses in their first year, reducing the costs of hiring staff and improving the likelihood of business survival.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* North Lincolnshire and *(b)* Scunthorpe have benefited from the national insurance contributions holiday scheme. [68794]

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 818W, on national insurance contributions, how many successful applications for the national insurance contributions holiday have been received from businesses based in Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency since the scheme's inception. [68522]

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* Worcester constituency and *(b)* Worcestershire have registered for the national insurance contributions holiday scheme for new businesses. [68878]

Mr Gauke: The information is as follows:

(i) As of 31 July, HMRC has received *(a)* 14 successful applications from businesses in North Lincolnshire constituency and *(b)* five successful applications from businesses in Scunthorpe constituency for the NICs holiday.

(ii) As of 31 July, HMRC has received 14 successful applications from businesses in Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency.

(iii) As of 31 July, HMRC has received *(a)* 38 successful applications from businesses in Worcester constituency and *(b)* 670 successful applications from business in the West Midlands as a whole. Information on NUTS3 region level for Worcestershire is not available.

Offshore Industry

Jim McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of the proposals in the 2011 Budget on the UK oil and gas industry. [69439]

Justine Greening: As set out in the relevant Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget, which can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6133.htm

The Government does not expect a significant impact on investment or production in the forecast period as a consequence of this measure.

Child Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce child poverty *(a)* in the West Midlands and *(b)* nationally; and if he will make a statement. [43486]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

A reply to this question has been delayed due to an administrative error and I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

This Government are committed to eradicating child poverty in the UK by 2020. We published our first child poverty strategy, "A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives", covering the period to 2014, in April this year. It sets out a new approach to tackling poverty and securing social justice aimed at transforming lives and tackling the causes of poverty. At its heart are the principles of work, fairness, responsibility and support for the most vulnerable. It draws together our radical programme of reform of welfare and education, tackling worklessness and benefit dependency and increasing children's life chances, with tailored support to overcome barriers and a greater concentration on early intervention and on whole-family and whole-life measures.

Our strategy establishes a UK-wide framework for tackling child poverty. It confirms our intention to support local authorities and their partners in meeting their duties under the Child Poverty Act 2010 to assess child poverty needs in their areas and publish strategies to reduce its level and mitigate its effects.

We are working with local authorities to develop new ways of pooling budgets and commissioning and delivering services through initiatives such as Community Budgets (Birmingham is a Community Budget area), Social Return on Investment and Payment by Results. We are drawing on our strong local networks to embed an evidence-based focus on what works best in sustainably eradicating child poverty, including sharing evidence from across the suite of child poverty pilots (which included a child poverty innovation pilot in North Warwickshire, a teenage parents in supported housing pilot in Worcestershire) and to ensure local experiences are properly reflected in the development of our national policy.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for St Albans of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 461W, on habitual residence, whether he intends to *(a)* collect data and *(b)* estimate expenditure in respect of the value of family benefits paid under the EC regulations to non-UK EU citizens; and if he will make a statement. [68533]

Mr Gauke: EC Regulation 883/2004 protects the social security rights of nationals of all member states of the European Economic Area (EEA), including the UK, when they exercise their rights of free movement under European law.

Around 7.5 million families are currently claiming child benefit for around 13 million children. Out of that total, at 30 June 2011, there were 24,190 ongoing child benefit awards under EC Regulation 883/2004 to nationals of other member states in respect of 40,635 children living in another member state. That equates to around 0.32% of all child benefit awards. The breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Country	*Number of ongoing awards as at 30 June 2011*	*Number of children in ongoing awards as at 30 June 2011*
Austria	34	52
Belgium	155	303
Bulgaria	142	186
Cyprus	61	87
Czech Republic	168	277
Denmark	18	33
Estonia	28	39
Finland	20	38
France	1,257	2,320
Germany	339	583
Greece	57	85
Hungary	103	157
Iceland	3	5
Italy	199	336
Latvia	536	732
Lithuania	982	1,342
Luxembourg	12	25
Malta	19	27
Norway	40	73
Poland	16,230	27,018

Country	*Number of ongoing awards as at 30 June 2011*	*Number of children in ongoing awards as at 30 June 2011*
Portugal	246	368
Republic of Ireland	1,086	2,251
Romania	158	264
Slovakia	1,077	1,870
Slovenia	6	10
Spain	832	1,386
Sweden	60	114
Switzerland	117	244
The Netherlands	205	410
Totals	24,190	40,635

As advised in the reply to the hon. Member for St Albans, information about the value of family benefits awarded by the UK under EC Regulation 883/2004 is available only at disproportionate costs.

Telephone Services

Richard Harrington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Government have received from each Government helpline using an 0845 number in the latest period for which figures are available. [69483]

Danny Alexander: The information requested is not held centrally by the Treasury.

Valuation: Appeals

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average time taken by the Valuation Office Agency to process an appeal against a rating assessment was in the latest period for which figures are available; [67861]

(2) with reference to the 2010 revaluation scheme, how many appeals against Valuation Office Agency rating assessments are outstanding in each parliamentary constituency; [67862]

(3) with reference to the 2010 revaluation scheme, how many appeals against Valuation Office Agency rating assessments have been lodged in each parliamentary constituency since 1 April 2010. [67863]

Mr Gauke: The VOA is committed to maintaining the accuracy of the rating list and makes every effort to ensure formal challenges are settled as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The average time taken to process a formal challenge, brought against the 2010 local rating list, in England, in the 2010-11 financial year, ignoring weekends and bank holidays, is around 110 days.

Statistics on both the number of formal challenges received by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) against the 2010 Local Rating List in the 2010-11 financial year, and the number of formal challenges that remained outstanding at the end of the 2010-11 financial year, by each administrative area of England and Wales, are published on the VOA website in Tables 3.2 and 3.4, respectively. This information can be found in the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/corporate/statisticalReleases/localRatingListChallenges.html

Equivalent statistics broken down by parliamentary constituency can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

VAT: Golf

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons private golf courses are exempt from value added tax on *(a)* subscription fees and *(b)* green fees. [69468]

Mr Gauke: The principal VAT directive, which governs the application of VAT in the European Union, requires member states to apply a VAT exemption to certain activities in the public interest, including supplies of sporting services by non-profit making organisations. Subscription fees charged by non-profit-making golf clubs are therefore exempt from VAT. The exemption does not extend to subscription fees received by proprietary (profit-making) clubs.

HMRC consider that, under UK law, green fees paid by non-members to both non-profit-making and proprietary clubs are taxable. In a recent decision, the First Tier Tribunal found that green fees paid by non-members to non-profit making golf clubs were exempt. HMRC has been given leave to appeal this decision to the Upper Tier Tribunal and businesses should continue to treat these green fees as taxable pending a decision of the Upper Tier Tribunal.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 43486 tabled on 25 February 2011 for answer on 1 March 2011 relating to child poverty. [68476]

Justine Greening: The hon. Member's question was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions on 1 March.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 September 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

These questions were intended for publication on Monday 5 September 2011

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 345W, on arts, when he expects to announce details of his framework for quantifying the economic contribution of the Department's sectors. [68444]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department, alongside Arts Council England, continues to work on this long-term project and will announce details of any publication on its website as soon as they are available. We currently anticipate that we will be in a better position to clarify plans for outputs later this year.

Media Ownership

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any adviser or official in his Department discussed News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB with advisers or officials working for the Prime Minister between 23 December 2010 and 12 July 2011. [68315]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: This was a quasi-judicial decision for which I had to exercise my judgment, having sought advice from independent regulators. As such there were no discussions on the substance of my decision about News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BskyB between advisers and officials from my Department, and advisers and officials working for the Prime Minister between 23 December and 12 July 2011. The Prime Minister and No. 10 did not seek to influence the decision.

My officials did, on occasions during this period, explain the procedure I was following with officials working for the Prime Minister.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish his letter to the Competition Commission referring to it the matter of News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB. [68317]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My reference to the Competition Commission under Section 58 of the Enterprise Act 2002 dated 13 July has been published on my Department's website.

All published documents relating to the News Corp/ BSkyB merger can be found using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7880.aspx

Broadband

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of expenditure in superfast broadband by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the private sector in each of the last five years. [67857]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have not made any specific estimates, but are committed to investing £530 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to help deliver superfast broadband to areas of the UK that the market will not reach unaided. The market is expected to deliver superfast broadband to approximately two thirds of households, which includes a £2.5 billion investment commitment from BT, as well as significant investment from Virgin Media and a number of smaller companies.

Broadband: Finance

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to make an announcement on the allocation of funds for superfast broadband. [68118]

Mr Vaizey: The announcements on the allocations were made during July and August.

Broadcasting: Welsh Language

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has met *(a)* Welsh Ministers and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales to discuss the future of Welsh language broadcasting, including the devolution functions; and if he will make a statement. [68694]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has had a number of meetings with the Secretary of State for Wales that cover a wide variety of topics.

Communications Bill

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will include the issue of future cross-media ownership in any consultation on the proposed Communications Bill. [68277]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have said that we will be considering a potential weakness in the media plurality public interest powers in our work for the new Communications Bill, including in any consultation. In addition, as set out by the Prime Minister, Lord Justice Leveson's Inquiry will also be looking at the issues of cross-media ownership. The intention is for recommendations in these areas to feed into our considerations for the Bill.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the consultation on a new Communications Bill in light of the establishment of the judicial inquiry into telephone hacking. [68433]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government have committed to legislate during this Parliament to modernise regulation governing the communications sector. It is a Government priority and work has already begun. Lord Leveson's inquiry looking at press regulation will contribute to the future Bill and decisions on timing will be taken when this essential work is further advanced.

Creative Industries Council

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what criteria he applied to determine the persons to be invited to join the Creative Industries Council; [68059]

(2) if he will make it his policy to place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting of the Creative Industries Council. [68060]

Mr Vaizey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), to the hon. Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis) on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 4-5W.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many employees each company represented on the Creative Industries Council has in each region. [68071]

Mr Vaizey: This Department does not hold a regional breakdown for employees for each of the Creative Industries Council members. While the creative industries do have a London and south-east England focus, there are major centres in other regions of England, and we would expect the members of the Council to reflect that.

Cultural Education Review

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the Henley review of cultural education will report to him. [68280]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The review of cultural education being undertaken by Darren Henley will report to both my Department and the Department for Education.

Advertising

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms between January 2008 and June 2009; and what the total cost to the public purse was. [68375]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport did not spend anything on radio and television advertising during this period. It used newspaper advertisements for the purposes of recruitment and spent £37,357.49 on this between January 2008 and June 2009.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67909]

John Penrose: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Date	*Destination*	*Flight*
October 2010	San Francisco/Los Angeles	Economy
November 2010	Kuala Lumpur	Economy
November 2010	Zurich	Budget Airline
March 2011	Dublin	Budget Airline

Departmental Billing

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many late payments his Department has made to contractors between January 2008 and June 2009; and what the cost to the public purse was of any *(a)* penalty charges or *(b)* interest charges incurred in that period. [68395]

John Penrose: The number of invoices paid later than 30 days during this period was 108 (1.4% of transactions).

There are no separate records maintained in respect of penalty or interest charges incurred, if any. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as it would involve checking details of all invoices paid during the period.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68959]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) does not hold centrally a record of the number of its staff who worked for any of the four firms listed immediately prior to taking up their appointment in the last four years, A full list of consultancy agreements taken out by DCMS' Government Olympic Executive (GOE), as well as the number of consultants from each firm who have advised the Department, are detailed by financial year in the following tables:

Year 2007-08

Firm	*Number of agreements*	*Number of advisers*
KPMG	0	0
PWC	2	4
Ernst and Young	0	0
Deloitte	4	4

Year 2008-09

Firm	Number of agreements	Number of advisers
KPMG	0	0
PWC	1	1
Ernst and Young	0	0
Deloitte	0	0

Year 2009-10

Firm	Number of agreements	Number of advisers
KPMG	0	0
PWC	5	12
Ernst and Young	1	1
Deloitte	0	0

Year 2010-11

Firm	Number of agreements	Number of advisers
KPMG	0	0
PWC	0	0
Ernst and Young	1	1
Deloitte	0	0

Other contractual—although not necessarily consultancy—agreements taken out by DCMS and the four named firms, are as follows. It has not been possible to provide the number of consultants who worked on each contract as these data are not held centrally by our Finance or Property and Procurement teams. All invoices owed to a company are normally fixed. As such, a range of people might be involved who are not necessarily detailed in the firm's bid.

Calendar year 2007

Firm	Number of agreements	Purpose of contract
KPMG	0	—
PWC	1	Assessment of World Heritage Sites
Ernst and Young	0	—
Deloitte	2	ICT compliance review; DCMS transformation programme

Calendar year 2008

Firm	Number of agreements	Purpose of contract
KPMG	0	—
PWC	1	Wind up of regional cultural consortiums
Ernst and Young	1	Due diligence on the Tote
Deloitte	1	IT security review

Calendar year 2009

Firm	Number of agreements	Purpose of contract
KPMG	0	
PWC	1	Equal pay audit
Ernst and Young	0	
Deloitte	1	IT security review

There were no contractual agreements taken out with any of the four firms listed in 2010.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68761]

John Penrose: The Department received 536 letters and 15 emails from hon. Members in June 2011.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department between January 2008 and June 2009; and what the cost to the public purse was in (i) cash and (ii) real terms of such appointments. [68331]

John Penrose: The Department employed three special advisers and 24 press officers between January 2008 and June 2009. The salary cost in cash terms and in real terms, to the public purse, is in the following table:

		£
Job title	*2008-09 (cash terms)*	*2011 (real terms)*
Special advisers	279,522.19	271,136,34
Press officers	1,118,609.39	1,085,050.73

Mobile Communications

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many mobile telephones and BlackBerrys were provided to staff in his Department between January 2008 and June 2009; and what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* line rental, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* the purchase of such telecommunications equipment. [68320]

John Penrose: The Department spent £124,265.40 on line rental and usage and £10,974.81 on other items, such as batteries, Sim cards and cases between January 2008 and June 2009. No insurance costs were incurred.

We are unable to separate line rental from usage because our records do not allow this and we do not hold the information about the provision of mobile telephones and BlackBerrys to staff within that period.

Official Cars

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* cars leased by his Department to staff and *(b)* Ministerial chauffeurs between January 2008 and June 2009. [68384]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not lease cars to staff or Ministers. Cars for Ministers were supplied through the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA). The charge for this service is based on time per job rather than dividing the car and driver cost. The cost of GCDA cars supplied to Ministers in the period January 2008 to June 2009 was £457,076.73.

Official Hospitality

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on hospitality for staff since May 2010. [67822]

John Penrose: The Department has a strict policy restricting the use of hospitality. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Hospitality can only be incurred on behalf of visitors from outside the public sector, where the value of the work-related discussions is recognised to assist the taking forward of business. Hospitality normally takes the form of tea and coffee, and exceptionally includes lunch. There is a presumption that in all cases the number of civil servants must not exceed the number of guests. All hospitality expenditure must be approved at a senior level.

The departmental spend on hospitality since May 2010, predominantly for visitors rather than departmental staff, is £28,201.22

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69275]

John Penrose: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), said in response to PQ16752 on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 615-16W, that the Government had announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

> a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;
>
> radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across government; and
>
> the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management;
>
> and in result, Departments would no longer be required to report against the previous Government's efficiency targets.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010-11. This impact was assessed using methodologies described in the following table. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented. As part of this, Table 11 of the DCMS Report and Accounts 2010-11 (HC1002) reports that non-pay gross admin costs for my Department (excluding provisions) reduced from £26.8 million in 2009-10 to £25.0 million in 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury accounting and budgeting guidance.

This information also applies to all of the Department's public bodies.

Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for Department Ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009-10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other professional services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown Commercial	Government have renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in Memoranda of Understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.
Contingent Labour	Government have significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009-10.

Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010-11 with that for 2009-10.
Centralising Procurement	Government have started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against an 2009-10 market price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.
ICT	We implemented: (a) a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and (b) a review of all on-going ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010-11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.
Major Projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010-11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We have halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million Identity Cards—£50 million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million Whole Farm—£5 million We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures, that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects related negotiations
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount Departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry

Rail Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* first class and *(b)* all train travel by (i) Ministers, (ii) staff and (iii) special advisers in his Department between January 2008 and June 2009. [68342]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's expenditure on train travel in the period January 2008 to June 2009, is set out in the following table:

DCMS train travel January 2008 to June 2009

	Expenditure (£)
Ministers first class travel	11,681.10
Other staff first class travel	40,784.60
Other train travel	62,995.35
Total	115,461.05

The Department's accounting system does not separate out the special advisers travel costs, but these are included in the other staff figures.

Stationery

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of stationery purchased by his Department between January 2008 and June 2009. [68390]

John Penrose: During the period January 2008 to June 2009 the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport spent a total of £61,411.61 including VAT on stationery and office supplies.

Departmental Training

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location, *(c)* number of attendees and *(d)* cost to the public purse was for each (i) away day and (ii) team building activity organised for staff in his Department between January 2008 and June 2009. [68335]

John Penrose: The Department arranged 12 team away days and events in 2008-09. The cost, location and purpose of these are in the following table:

Purpose of team away day	*Location*	*Cost (£)*
Sport and Leisure Team building and strategy formulation	Harte and Garter, Windsor	1,216.60
All Staff full day Conference	Royal Festival Hall, London	7,087.63
Public Engagement and Recognition Team Building	Wellcome Collection, London	1733.13
Olympic Programme Office Team Building	Westway Sports Centre, London	293.75
HMG involvement with London 2012 Olympics	The Royal Horseguards Hotel, London	1,405
HMG involvement with London 2012 Olympics	Wembley Stadium	405.40
Government Olympic Executive Business Plan Review and Team Building	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Enfield	3,276.35
HMG involvement with London 2012 Olympics	The Jerwood Space Ltd, London	840,13
HMG involvement with London 2012 Olympics	The Royal Horseguards Hotel, London	866
HMG involvement with London 2012 Olympics	Wallacespace, London	2,415
HMG involvement with London 2012 Olympics	Somerset House, London	7,642
Private Office Team Building	Regus and Urban Golf, London	1,415.74

The remaining details requested are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Official Overseas Visits

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* staff and *(c)* special advisers in his Department between January 2008 and June 2009; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit. [68360]

John Penrose: Ministers' visits abroad are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Information relating to flights taken is published in the annual list of Ministers' overseas travel costing more than £500, and indicates when officials accompanied them. The lists for 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be accessed at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministers-overseas-travel

The details and costs for officials' overseas visits are not centrally collated and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Internship

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69520]

John Penrose: As of 1 July 2011, there were no persons undertaking unpaid work experience, internships or positions within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Medals

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consultation he undertook with other governments of the Commonwealth on the eligibility criteria for the Diamond Jubilee Medal. [69143]

Hugh Robertson: Commonwealth nations were not consulted on the eligibility criteria for the UK Diamond Jubilee Medal, since they produce their own medals. I understand both Canada and the Caribbean Realms will be producing medals to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year.

Football: Public Participation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average monthly number of participants in *(a)* five-a-side and *(b)* 11-a-side football. [68567]

Hugh Robertson: The latest Active People survey (April 2010 to April 2011), sets out that 1.8 million people play small-sided football at least once a month and just over one million people participate in 11-a-side football at least once a month. A total of 3.1 million participate in some form of football at least once a month.

Football: VAT

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* the Football Association and *(c)* the Fitness Industry Association on the effects on grassroots sport of the proposed change in VAT status for five-a-side league football. [68575]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with Sport England, the Football Association or the Fitness Industry Association on the proposed change in VAT status for five-a-side football on participation in grassroots sport. Officials are looking at this issue with Sport England and will be providing Ministers with advice shortly.

Government Art Collection

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which works of art from the Government Art Collection are located in each official Ministerial residence and what the *(a)* title and *(b)* artist is of each. [69770]

Mr Vaizey: I will arrange for lists of the Government Art Collection works of art located in official Ministers' residences (Admiralty House Flat 1, 1 Carlton Gardens and 10 and 11 Downing street) to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Government Procurement Card

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many Government Procurement Cards were used by staff of his Department between January 2008 and June 2009; and what the *(a)* name of the supplier, *(b)* date and *(c)* value was of each transaction during this period. [68352]

John Penrose: A table detailing parts *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* of the information you have requested has been placed in the House Libraries. 75 Government Procurement Cards were used by departmental staff between January 2008 and June 2009.

Hospitality

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* lunches and *(b)* dinners he has attended at the expense of the host since his appointment; on what dates; and with whom. [68285]

John Penrose: Details of hospitality over £140, received by the Secretary of State and Ministers in this Department since being appointed to 31 December 2010, are published on the Departmental website:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/2010/10/

Details for the next quarter will be published shortly.

Official Hospitality

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* four star, *(b)* five star and *(c)* other hotel accommodation for (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in his Department between January 2008 and June 2009. [68370]

John Penrose: The Department spent £30,122 on hotels for staff and £1,466 for Ministers between January 2008 and June 2009. The Department does not record the star ratings of hotels that have been booked and cannot therefore provide the costs specific to four or five star hotels. The Department's accounting system does not separate out the special advisers' hotel costs, but these are included in the staff figures.

Internet: Suicide

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on restricting access to websites which promote suicide. [69063]

Mr Vaizey: It is an offence to commit an act capable of encouraging or assisting the suicide or attempted suicide of another person with the intention to so encourage or assist.

While websites which promote suicide are illegal, the internet can provide an opportunity to be able to reach out to vulnerable individuals who would otherwise be reluctant to seek information, help or support from other agencies.

Content providers will generally remove content that breaks their terms of service, including illegal material on suicide and other material that they consider harmful and inappropriate. Government also works with search engines and social media sites to ensure that ready access is provided to trusted suicide prevention and support services.

Local Broadcasting: Television

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the likely costs, including administrative costs, of establishing a new framework for local television services; and if he will make a statement. [68284]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A detailed impact assessment, which fully considers the costs and benefits of establishing a new framework for local television, can be found here

http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/8298.aspx

Mass Media

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month between January 2008 and June 2009. [68364]

John Penrose: Echo Research Ltd was commissioned to conduct an evaluation of the media coverage of London's Olympics, which concluded in July 2008.

The invoice for this work was received in August 2009. The cost was £3,810.53.

No other formal evaluations of media coverage were carried out during the period in question.

Mobile Phones: Fees and Charges

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* mobile telephone companies and *(b)* the European Commission regarding mobile telephone roaming charges; and if he will make a statement. [68260]

Mr Vaizey: Telecommunications policy, including international mobile roaming charges, is a matter for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the independent regulator, Ofcom. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not had any recent discussion with either mobile network operators or the European Commission on this matter.

Officials have recently been involved in discussions with the European Commission and other member states, at the Communications Committee (COCOM) and at Council Working Group level, on the recent draft Regulation on Roaming charges, As part of their ongoing dialogue with communications suppliers, officials have also discussed roaming, and the recent Commission proposals, with Telefonica O2, Hutchison Three and Vodafone.

National Lottery: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what consultation he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Executive on the determination of priorities for lottery funds allocated for use in Scotland; [69657]

(2) what plans he has for the future role of Ministers in the Scottish Executive in determining priorities for lottery funds allocated for use in Scotland. [69658]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and I have not discussed the determination of priorities for lottery funding in Scotland with Scottish Ministers. Under the devolution arrangements, such matters are for Scottish Ministers to determine through the policy directions they issue to lottery distributors. There are no plans to change this.

Newspaper Press

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the date and venue was of each meeting he has had with newspaper *(a)* editors, *(b)* executives and *(c)* proprietors since his appointment. [68314]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: No.10 maintains a transparency website containing links to each Government Department's quarterly reports, listing Minister's meetings with outside interest groups. The most recent report is entitled DCMS Ministerial hospitality, overseas travel and meetings with outside interest groups: 1 January to 31 March 2011:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/2011/07/26/dcms-ministerial-hospitality-overseas-travel-and-meetings-with-outside-interest-groups-jan-mar2011/

In addition, a list of all my meetings with proprietors, editors and senior media executives for the period 11 May 2010 to 15 July 2011:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/2011/07/26/sos-meetings-with-proprietors-editors-and-senior-media-executives-11may1-15jul11/

have recently been published.

These reports can be found using the link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/2011/07/

Olympic Games 2012

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many London 2012 Olympic business suppliers and procurement events have been held in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England and *(c)* Wales in the last 12 months; and who was responsible for advertising, publicity and promotion in each nation. [68012]

Hugh Robertson: The information the hon. Member has requested has not been centrally collated.

The London 2012 Business Network promotes opportunities from the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), through events, communications, business bulletins and CompeteFor. The ODA and LOCOG also undertake visits to the nations and regions to promote games-related contract opportunities and host business delegations to the Olympic Park. Overall, nearly 50% of contracts awarded to date are to companies outside of London, with two-thirds of these small and medium-sized enterprises. The ODA held 60 events between June 2007 and April 2010 and visited every nation and region during the height of its procurement activity, and engaged with over 10,000 businesses. The programme of events concluded in April 2010 as much of the procurement work had been completed. LOCOG's engagement with businesses is still continuing.

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 510W, on Olympic Games 2012, who sits on the LOCOG North Eastern Advisory Group; which organisations they represent; and what process was used to determine the membership of the Advisory Group. [68514]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the Olympic Torch Relay, LOCOG is a private company operating independently of Government.

LOCOG have advised the Department that the organisations that formed the Torch Advisory Group in the North-East include One North East; Arts Council England; Sport England; the Strategic Health Authority, NHS North-East; the Association of North-East councils; Gateshead council (as it chairs the ANEC local authority working group); the BBC; and Cleveland police (on behalf of all North-East police forces). Government Office for the North-East was on the group while it existed.

During the bid, the Nations and Regions Group was established to ensure engagement with the London 2012 Games and maximise their benefits across the UK. Since the bid was won in 2005, the London 2012 Board for the North East was established to work with local stakeholders and through the central Nations and Regions Group. The membership of the Torch Relay Advisory Group in the North-East reflects that of the broader board and was established in consultation with them.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider placing direct web links to accommodation in counties which are hosting Olympic events on the London 2012 Olympics accommodation website. [68822]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is responsible for the

http://www.london2012.com

website, which includes a section on accommodation, LOCOG is a private company, independent of Government.

As the acknowledged tourism authorities, the London 2012 Organising Committee website links directly to VisitBritain and London & Partners (formerly Visit London) accommodation pages to showcase the latest options for accommodation for those visiting the UK and London around Games-time.

Olympic Games 2012: Employment

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to ensure that residents of the East End of

London will benefit from job opportunities created by the London 2012 Olympics. [69062]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) set a target to deliver a construction workforce of at least 15% of the residents of the five host boroughs. In June 2011 of the Olympic Park contractor workforce 24% were resident in the five host boroughs.

The ODA and its partners have put a range of measures in place to help local people in particular access training and employment opportunities on the site. Vacancies are offered exclusively to the host borough employment brokerages and Jobcentre Plus offices in the area for a period of 48 hours. Vacancies unfilled after this time are advertised across London for a further 24 hours and after this are made available across the UK through the national Jobcentre Plus network.

Further information can be found in the ODA's Jobs, Skills, Futures report, which was published on 20 July at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/publications/employment-and-skills-update-july-2011.php

The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is now beginning to accelerate its recruitment as it builds up to Games-time. LOCOG will have a workforce of up to 200,000 people, made up of around 6,000 FTE roles; up to 70,000 Games Maker volunteers; and 100,000 contractor positions (of which around 30,000 are expected to be 'new' jobs).

LOCOG works closely with the East London host boroughs, and has set itself a target of 15% to 20% recruitment from their residents. At this early stage, 21.6% of LOCOG's workforce are residents of the six host boroughs (figure includes Barking and Dagenham). LOCOG and its contractors are now actively encouraging applications from the six host boroughs, working with the local authorities, local job brokerages, the host borough unit and Job Centre plus.

The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) is responsible for the long term development of most of the Olympic Park after the Games. The company is keen to ensure local people can take advantage of the employment opportunities generated by the Games, use existing infrastructure within the host boroughs, including the local labour schemes and training facilities and to maximise opportunities to sustain employment for residents of the host boroughs employed during Games-time. Further information can be found in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8308.aspx

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of jobs created by the London 2012 Olympics which will be taken by Tower Hamlets residents. [69073]

Hugh Robertson: I have made no such estimate. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is currently in the final stages of the 'big build' of the venues for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. With the ODA's construction work on the venues drawing to a close future employment opportunities will now be focused through the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) and the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC).

In June 2011 1,196 (24%) of the ODA's Olympic Park work force and 1,529 (27%) of the Athlete's Village work force were resident in the five host boroughs, which include Tower Hamlets. Further information can be found in the ODA's Jobs, Skills, Futures report, which was published on 20 July at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/publications/employment-and-skills-update-july-2011.php

The ODA and its partners have put a range of measures in place to help local people in particular access training and employment opportunities on the site. Vacancies are offered exclusively to the host borough employment brokerages and Jobcentre Plus offices in the area for a period of 48 hours. Vacancies unfilled after this time are advertised across London for a further 24 hours and after this are made available across the UK through the national Jobcentre Plus network.

LOCOG is now beginning to accelerate its recruitment as it builds up to Games-time. LOCOG will have a work force of up to 200,000 people, made up of around 6,000 FTE roles; up to 70,000 Games Maker volunteers; and 100,000 contractor positions (of which around 30,000 are expected to be 'new' jobs).

LOCOG works closely with Tower Hamlets and the other five East London host boroughs, and has set itself a target of 15-20% recruitment from their residents. At this early stage, 21.6% of LOCOG's work force are residents of the six host boroughs (figure includes Barking and Dagenham). LOCOG and its contractors are now actively encouraging applications from the six host boroughs, working with the local authorities, local job brokerages, the host borough unit and Job Centre plus.

The OPLC is responsible for the long term development of most of the Olympic Park after the Games. The company is keen to ensure local people can take advantage of the employment opportunities generated by the Games, use existing infrastructure within the host boroughs, including the local labour schemes and training facilities, and to maximise opportunities to sustain employment for residents of the host boroughs employed during Games-time. Further information can be found in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8308.aspx

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that local residents will have access to the sports facilities used as part of the London 2012 Olympics following the completion of the Games. [69069]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Park Legacy Company was set up by the Government and the Mayor of London to manage, develop and maintain the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park after the Games. This includes putting local communities at the heart of its planning for its Olympic venues—the Aquatics Centre, the Multi-use Arena and the Stadium. The Legacy Company is in the process of appointing operators for these venues and aims to have them in place before Games-time. While these operators will be expected to manage the venues, the Legacy Company will be very much involved in overseeing their management and in ensuring that local residents have full access at prices comparable with facilities in the area.

The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is committed to ensuring that facilities at the VeloPark and Hockey/Tennis Centre on the Eton Manor site are fully accessible to all members of the community. They are working in partnership with the national governing bodies for cycling, tennis and hockey to ensure a balanced approach to sports delivery at all their venues and will develop extensive sports development plans/programmes aimed at engaging with all members of the community from grass-roots activity through to elite performance programmes.

The authority will actively work with local community groups and other partners to ensure Local people benefit from these facilities and will also encourage wider usage across the region. They are currently doing some extensive work with the six host boroughs to ensure local communities benefit from the Olympics and that sports development plans reflect needs locally.

The authority has already opened the Lee Valley White Water Centre in Broxbourne to the community, the only newly built facility to be open before the Olympics. Visitor tracking for the first six months of operation indicates that the centre has received residents from every single London borough and has the highest percentage of users from the local boroughs of Broxbourne, Epping and Enfield.

Olympic Games 2012: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to the Answer of 21 July 2005, Official Report, column 2077W, who will lead the East of England Olympic Working Group following the closure of the East England Development Agency in March 2011. [68820]

Hugh Robertson: The East of England London 2012 Board (Nations and Regions East) will lead the East of England Olympic Working Group. The Board presently includes the following representation: East of England Development Agency, East of England Local Government Association (EELGA), Sport England, Department of Health, Arts Council England East, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, East of England Business Group, East of England Tourism and Representatives from each of the six county area working groups, which includes the Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Group. The group is chaired by Councillor Stephen Castle, Nations and Regions Group Member. The Government is funding the continuation of regional co-ordination services and support for the operation of the Nations and Regions East Group. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has an agreement with EELGA for the latter to provide these services in 2011-12 and from 1 April to 30 September 2012.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to the Answer of 21 July 2005, Official Report, column 2077W, if he will highlight the city of St Albans in promotional literature for visitors to the London 2012 Olympics. [68821]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has established a new £100 million overseas tourism marketing fund which is a joint public-private sector initiative. The marketing programme, which is being led by VisitBritain, will capitalise on the international interest in the recent royal wedding, as well as next year's diamond jubilee and the Olympic games and Paralympic games, and showcase Britain to the world. The programme is aiming to attract 4 million additional visitors and £2 billion extra spend in the UK economy over the next four years, which will support businesses, jobs and growth. VisitBritain will be promoting the full range of destinations in Britain across a number of platforms including heritage cities as a generic tourism product. The destination will also feature in their Places to Visit, gazetteer which can be found at:

http://www.enjoyengland.com/

VisitEngland have already highlighted the cathedral of St Albans in their cultural pages and this coincided with the local Organ festival being held at the time. Beyond that, destination-specific marketing, for St Albans or anywhere else, is best handled by the local Destination Management Organisation in each area.

Olympic Games 2012: Housing

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made on the development of affordable homes in the Olympic Village and when a lettings policy will be published. [69068]

Hugh Robertson: The forecasted Village construction end date for the Games is early 2012. The 2,818 homes will be temporarily fitted out for the use of Olympic and Paralympic Athletes during the Games. 1,379 affordable homes in the Village have been pre-sold to Triathlon Homes, an approved provider of affordable homes, who will also manage the homes. From summer 2013/spring 2014 the final high quality homes will be delivered to Triathlon ready for residents to move into. Triathlon has been working with the host boroughs and the Greater London Authority on the lettings strategy for the social rented homes on the site. This is currently being approved by all parties and will be published later in 2011.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of unsuccessful applicants for the first round of allocations for tickets to the London 2012 Olympics who were not informed of the outcome of the ticket ballot before 24 June 2011. [68184]

Hugh Robertson: I have not made any such estimation. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG), is a private company independent of Government, responsible for the tickets for the London 2012 games.

LOCOG has stated that in the first window of Olympic ticket sales from 15 March until 26 April, 1.9 million people put in applications for 22 million tickets. 700,000 were successful and notifications were sent to all applicants, successful and unsuccessful, by 24 June. LOCOG has communicated regularly with all these applicants, so they would be aware of the process.

Phone Hacking

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consult the official Opposition on the composition of the panel of media experts to be appointed to assist Lord Justice Leveson's inquiry into wrongdoing by the press and police. [68283]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Prime Minister announced the membership of the panel of media experts to be appointed to assist Lord Justice Leveson's inquiry into wrongdoing by the press and police, on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 918-21.

Names were passed to the Opposition ahead of the announcement and it was good to see the Leader of the opposition welcome them in his response.

Press Complaints Commission

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the date was of each meeting he has had with the Press Complaints Commission since his appointment. [68278]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have not met with the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) since my appointment.

However, the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the hon. Member for Wantage (Mr Vaizey), met with the PCC on 29 September 2010.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the date was of each meeting he has had at which officials or advisers of the Prime Minister were present since December 2010. [68316]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I attend regular meetings where officials or advisers of the Prime Minister may be present. However, details of exactly when, are not held centrally.

As has been the practice of previous Administrations, a list of meetings with external organisations is published on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website and can be found using the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/category/other/meetings/

I did not discuss my decisions on the BSkyB merger with the Prime Minister ahead of their announcement.

Rugby: World Cup

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in its support for the hosting by England of the 2013 Rugby League World Cup. [68279]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I am working closely with the Rugby Football League, organisers of the 2013 Rugby League World Cup, as well as the Rugby Football Union, organisers of the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup, to deliver the coalition agreement commitment to ensure that the tournaments are successful.

Sports: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the conditions were of funding through Sport England to national governing bodies; and what increase in participation his Department's Active People Scheme has recorded in each sport so funded. [68001]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England invests in 46 national governing bodies of sport to help deliver their strategy of increasing participation in sport. Each sport has developed a whole sport plan that explains how it will use this money to achieve their outcomes. A summary of the plans, and the investment made, is available on the Sport England website at the following link:

http://www.sportengland.org/funding/ngb_investment/ngb_whole_sport_plans.aspx

During the period April 2010 to April 2011, 6.924 million adults participated in sport three times a week for 30 minutes at moderate intensity. This is 108,600 more adult participants than the 2007-08 baseline (Active People Survey 2). The current, and previous, Active People Survey results can be found on the Sport England website at the following link:

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/active_people_survey_5/aps5_quarter_two.aspx

Treasure Trove: Coroners

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the timetable is for establishing a Coroner for Treasure as provided for in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009; and if he will make a statement. [68202]

Mr Vaizey: This Department, supported by the Ministry of Justice, is continuing to consider the feasibility of establishing a Coroner for Treasure. We will let interested parties know once we have reached a conclusion.

Treasure Trove: Oxfordshire

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the average length of time was for the completion of inquests into Treasure cases from Oxfordshire in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [68201]

Mr Vaizey: The average time taken for the completion of inquests into Treasure cases in Oxfordshire, based on the time between the date the British Museum wrote requesting that the inquest was held and the receipt of the verdict papers by the British Museum, is as follows:

(a) 408 days for cases where the British Museum .requested an inquest in 2008

(b) 274 days for cases where the British Museum requested an inquest in 2009

(c) No inquests have been completed for cases where the British Museum requested an inquest in 2010.

The figures shown exclude two cases from 2009 and one case from 2010 where the British Museum wrote to request an inquest but the verdict papers have not yet been received.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Tuesday 6 September 2011

Gambling

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 62WS, on remote gambling, and with reference to his Department's Business Plan for 2011-15, if he will implement the recommendations of his Department's investigation into the use of funds in dormant betting accounts to establish a capital fund to improve local sports facilities and support sports clubs. [68612]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The written ministerial statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 62WS, on remote gambling made clear that the Government's proposal to licence overseas based remote gambling is primarily about public protection. However, there is relevance to my Department's review of the possible use of funds lying in dormant betting accounts and unclaimed winnings, and we will consider the report by my right hon. Friend the Member for Bath (Mr Foster) on that subject in light of the decision on remote gambling. My Department will announce the decision on next steps, shortly.

Museums and Galleries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1108W, on museum and galleries: charitable trusts, if he will publish the framework for the creation of charitable trusts agreed at his meeting with national museum directors at the end of May 2011. [68534]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A framework was verbally agreed, and is necessarily individual to each body, given their range of circumstances and commercial sensitivities. There are no plans to publish a document. The timetable for individual bodies will vary, but the framework agrees that charitable trusts will be set up and operational by the end of the financial year.

Olympic Games 2012

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support in each category of assistance his Department has requested from the Ministry of Defence to assist with the London 2012 Olympics. [68535]

Hugh Robertson: The Department is currently in discussion with the Ministry of Defence regarding the possible participation of service personnel in ceremonies in support of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Department has agreed with the Ministry of Defence on the use of The Royal Artillery Barracks and Horse Guards as venues for the Olympics and Paralympics.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions he has had with London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games on arrangements for spectators at London 2012 Olympic cycling road races in *(a)* Box Hill and *(b)* other areas; [68643]

(2) what representations he has received on arrangements for spectators at London 2012 Olympic cycling road races in *(a)* Box Hill and *(b)* other areas; [68644]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of arrangements for spectators at London 2012 Olympic cycling road races at *(a)* Box Hill and *(b)* other areas; and if he will make a statement. [68653]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for staging the Olympic Cycling Road Races next year. The majority of the route will not require ticketing and LOCOG is working with partners to ensure that the events are a success for athletes and spectators, including ensuring provision for as many spectators as possible to view the race at Box Hill and throughout the route. Spectator arrangements must balance the ambition to provide viewing opportunities for as many people as possible with the obligation to ensure the safety of both spectators and the general public. LOCOG and Surrey county council are working with Transport for London, who are responsible for arrangements for the safe movement of spectators and the general public across the entire route. Box Hill carries two legally binding conservation designations, as both a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation. LOCOG are working in partnership with Natural England and the National Trust to ensure spectators are able to enjoy the race, while safeguarding the areas of specialist habitat. Officials from this Department work closely with these organisations and other local partners.

A London 2012 test event of the road race route, the London-Surrey Cycle Classic, took place in August 2011 and will inform planning for the London 2012 Olympic events.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which goods and services will be provided free of charge to athletes participating in the London 2012 Olympics that are not available free of charge to members of the public; and what estimate has been made of the cost of such goods and services. [69754]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is responsible for the arrangements for athletes competing at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. LOCOG is a private company, independent of Government, and works closely with the National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees that will send teams to the London 2012 games. A wide range of goods and services from food to accommodation are available for competitors, funded from LOCOGs budget. As part of the host city contract the Government will provide a range of services necessary for athletes travelling to the UK to participate in the games.

Olympic Games 20[illegible]2: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure Bexley benefits from the London 2012 Olympic games. [69651]

Hugh Robertson: Bexleyheath and Crayford stand to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how Bexley will benefit from the games are given as follows.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has awarded contracts to 759 direct suppliers in London. Examples of companies based in your constituency that have supplied the ODA include Blakley Electrics, who were responsible for temporary electrics at the Olympic Stadium, and Bexley Accessible Transport Scheme, which provided equipment.

Information on businesses in London that have directly supplied the ODA is available in the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

This information does not include contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA..

So far 42,403 companies in London have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised), and 845 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers in London.

Over 19,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for the London 2012 Organising Committee's (LOCOG) London 2012 education programme Get Set. To date, 2,556 London schools and colleges have registered, of which 75 are in the London borough of Bexley.

Over 1,600 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire mark, 241 of these are in London. As part of the Olympic Torch Relay, Bexley will hold an Olympic Torch evening celebration on Sunday 22 July 2012.

In addition, London has received £2.89 million from the Legacy Trust. One of the programmes which received funding is Big Dance, a programme which will embrace the widest possible definition of dance and the broadest spectrum of activity. It will engage London's communities and engage artists with communities across the city.

Olympic Games 2012: Leicester

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to support businesses in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the East Midlands to take advantage of the commercial opportunities of the 2012 London Olympics. [69679]

Hugh Robertson: The Nations and Regions Group, established by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) and London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), includes representation from each of the UK nations and regions and works directly with them to help realise and maximise the benefits from the economic, sporting and cultural opportunities offered by the games.

The economic benefits of the games continue to flow to businesses across the East Midlands. To date the region has secured almost £340 million of Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) Tier one contracts, the second highest value outside the greater South East. Over the past six months, contracts have been let to supply a diverse range of goods and services to London 2012 across each level of the LOCOG and ODA supply chains. Examples include; archery targets from Target Tech (Hugglescote, Leicestershire) and plaster and plasterboard from British Gypsum (Loughborough, Leicestershire).

The ODA is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 games. Over 1,500 businesses, including those directly involved in the construction programme, have supplied the ODA from across the UK, 44 of which are from the East Midlands. One of those businesses is Leicester-based Industrial Fire Protection which specialises in the design, supply and installation of passive fire protection. It secured a contract to design supply and fit soffit insulation to the undersides of the concrete floors in the main Olympic stadium.

Pre-Games Training Camps (PGTCs) provide an opportunity to create further economic benefits, including inward investment, through the international attention that will follow. Two agreements are now in place in the East Midlands for teams to use facilities in the region. The agreement between the Japanese Olympic Committee and Loughborough University has already brought both cultural and economic benefits.

The games will also provide a focus for the tourism industry. The Government's Tourism Policy, published in March, aims to help the tourism industry achieve its potential for growth through a range of measures. This initiative aims to generate 4 million extra overseas visitors over the next four years bringing in an extra £2 billion worth of visitor spend and helping to create 50,000 new jobs across the country.

S4C

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether targets are in place to ensure S4C reduces its central administration budget; [68536]

(2) what recent progress S4C has made in reducing its central administration budget. [68537]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport set out the funding for S4C over the spending review period in his letter to the Chair of the S4C Authority of 20 October 2010:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Jones_S4C.pdf

The allocation of its funding in pursuit of its objectives is a matter for S4C and the Secretary of State has not set any targets for S4C to reduce its central administration budget.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to protect the programme budget of S4C; and if he will make a statement. [68876]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State set out the funding for S4C over the spending review period in his letter to the Chair of the S4C Authority of 20 October 2010:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Jones_S4C.pdf

The allocation of its funding in pursuit of its objectives is a matter for S4C but the Secretary of State believes this is the best funding model for ensuring a sustainable future for Welsh language programming.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Internship

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69504]

Mr Paterson: As of 1 July 2011, no persons were undertaking any form of unpaid work in my Department.

Pat Finucane

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he intends to make an announcement on the outcome of his consideration on whether to establish an inquiry into the death of Pat Finucane; and if he will make a statement. [68874]

Mr Paterson: Soon.

Victim Support Schemes

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking together with the Irish Government to support the needs of victims; and if he will make a statement. [68483]

Mr Paterson: As I stated in my answer to the hon. Lady of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1097W, responsibility for providing practical services and support to victims rests with the devolved Administration.

However, I am committed to considering what contribution the UK Government can make to dealing with the legacy of the Troubles. I have had several discussions with the Irish Foreign Minister on this issue and intend to continue to engage with the Irish Government on the way forward.

CABINET OFFICE

British Nationals (Overseas)

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many British nationals were living in each other EU member state in each of the last 10 years for *(a)* all and *(b)* part of that year; and if he will make a statement. [68474]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question how many British nationals were living in each other EU member state in each of the last 10 years for (a) all and (b) part of that year [68474].

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not collect information regarding UK nationals resident outside the UK. However, Eurostat publishes figures on population by citizenship for EU countries, these are available at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database

Special Advisers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many special adviser posts have been advertised since May 2010. [68642]

Mr Maude: In accordance with the provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, special adviser appointments are exempt from the requirement that appointments to the civil service must be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. Therefore, no special adviser posts have been advertised.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 357W, on carbon emissions, if he will assess the feasibility of low-carbon energy generation on the Downing Street estate. [67926]

Mr Maude: In November 2008, under the previous Administration, an energy use options study was carried out in consultation with the Carbon Trust.

The report stated that:

> "there appears to be little benefit in initiating a local CHP (combined heat and power) facility at Downing street as the existing Whitehall District Heating System (WDHS) already fulfils that role".

In line with the report's recommendation, this position remains unchanged and there are no plans to disconnect Downing street from the WDHS.

The study also considered other options for renewable energy generation such as wind turbines and photovoltaic panels. However, these proved to be either economically unviable or precluded by the Grade 1 listing status of 10 Downing street.

Downing street continues to seek improvements in its sustainability under a programme of building improvement and, over the last year, has reduced carbon emissions by 10.8%.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many procurement contracts his Department has awarded to small businesses since May 2010. [67251]

Mr Maude: Comprehensive information is not currently available on the number of contracts awarded to small businesses and cannot be obtained without exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold of £800.

Since January 2011, all new contracts over the value of £10,000 are required to be published on Contracts Finder. Up to 15 July the Cabinet Office has awarded and published on Contracts Finder eight contracts over the value of £10,000 to Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs).

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68552]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is responsible for the operation of the following telephone helplines:

The Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) within the Cabinet Office includes the ERG Service Desk, which answers telephone queries, among other services that it provides. However, it is not possible to isolate the budget allocated to answering telephone inquiries from the Service Desk's overall funding.

MyCSP, the administrator for the civil service pension arrangements, operates helplines for scheme members and employers. Capita also operate a helpline for payroll queries on behalf of MyCSP. This activity is not costed separately, either locally or centrally.

Green Investment Bank

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Green Investment Bank will be classified by the Office for National Statistics as a public corporation for the purposes of the National Accounts. [68104]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As the Director General of ONS, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the Green Investment Bank will be classified by the Office for National Statistics as a public corporation for the purposes of the National Accounts (68104).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has not been asked for a classification decision with regard to the proposed Green Investment Bank (GIB). ONS will apply the international guidelines contained in the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA 95) to determine the appropriate classification—this may or may not result in the classification of the GIB as a public financial corporation.

We understand the GIB is currently still in the planning stage, consequently ONS is unlikely to reach a classification decision on the GIB until details are finalised.

A summary of the UK National Accounts sector and transaction classification process is published on the ONS website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/economy/na-classifications/the-uk-classification-process.pdf

Prostate Cancer: Ethnic Groups

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer was and *(b)* number of diagnoses of prostate cancer there were amongst (i) Black African, (ii) Black Caribbean, (iii) Black other, (iv) mixed White and Black African and (v) mixed White and Black Caribbean men in England in each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. [69413]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) age-standardised incidence rate for prostate cancer was and (b) number of diagnoses of prostate cancer there were amongst (i) Black African, (ii) Black Caribbean, (iii) Black other, (iv) mixed White and Black African and (v) mixed White and Black Caribbean men in England in each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. [69413]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer (incidence) are for the year 2009.

The tables attached provide the (a) age standardised incidence rate per 100,000 population (Table 1) and (b) the number of diagnoses (incidence) (Table 2) of prostate cancer in England for the years 1997 to 2009.

Figures are provided for calendar years (January to December) to be consistent with routine cancer registration outputs.

It is not possible to provide figures for (i) Black African, (ii) Black Caribbean, (iii) Black other, (iv) mixed White and Black African and (v) mixed White and Black Caribbean men as ethnicity is not consistently recorded for individual cancer registrations.

The latest published figures on the incidence of prostate cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Health+and+Social+Care

Table 1: Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, prostate cancer, males, England, 1997-2009[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Rate per 100,000
1997	71
1998	72
1999	78
2000	85
2001	96
2002	96
2003	96
2004	103
2005	99
2006	103
2007	100
2008	98
2009	108

[1] Age-standardised incidence rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[3] Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

[4] Figures for England exclude cancer registrations for non-residents.

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer, males, England, 1997-2009[1, 2, 3]

	Number
1997	20,006
1998	20,480
1999	22,387
2000	24,593
2001	28,015
2002	28,246
2003	28,503
2004	30,975
2005	30,053
2006	31,476
2007	31,236
2008	30,893

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer, males, England, 1997-2009[1, 2, 3]

	Number
2009	34,593

[1] Prostate cancer is coded as C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Based on newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

[3] Figures for England exclude cancer registrations for non-residents.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was amongst *(a)* Black African, *(b)* Black Caribbean, *(c)* Black other, *(d)* mixed White and Black African and *(e)* mixed White and Black Caribbean men in England in each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. [69414]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the age-standardised mortality rate from prostate cancer was amongst (a) Black African, (b) Black Caribbean, (c) Black other, (d) mixed White and Black African and (e) mixed White and Black Caribbean men in England in each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. (69414)

Table 1 attached provides the age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, in England, for the years 1997 to 2010 (the latest year available).

Figures are provided for calendar years (January to December) to be consistent with routine mortality outputs.

It is not possible to provide figures for (a) Black African, (b) Black Caribbean, (c) Black other, (d) mixed White and Black African and (e) mixed White and Black Caribbean men as ethnicity is not recorded at death registration.

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 males, where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death, England, 1997-2010[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Rate per 100,000
1997	28
1998	28
1999	27
2000	26
2001	27
2002	27
2003	27
2004	26
2005	26
2006	25
2007	25
2008	24
2009	24
2010	24

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61 from 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[3] Figures for England exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

UK National Accounts

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable he has set for the inclusion of natural capital within the UK National Accounts. [69449]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated August 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what timetable has been set for the inclusion of natural capital within the UK National Accounts. (69449).

The timetable is set out in the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)[1] which was published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 7 June 2011 with the following commitments:

'The new measures of national wellbeing which are in development will reflect our dependency on the natural environment for the quality of our lives.'

'We will put natural capital at the heart of Government accounting. We will work with the Office for National Statistics to fully include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts, with early changes by 2013. In 2012 we will publish a roadmap for further improvements up to 2020.'

The Office for National Statistics is leading on the delivery of these measurement commitments through our Measuring National Wellbeing[2] programme. The 2012 roadmap will detail the timetable for inclusion of natural capital within the UK Environmental Accounts, a satellite account to the UK National Accounts. ONS will be seeking to engage with a broad range of experts and potential users in the development of the roadmap. The exact date for its publication in 2012 has not yet been agreed but the publication date will be pre-announced in line with the National Statistics Code of Practice.

[1] http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/

[2] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/well-being/index.html

SCOTLAND

Air Force: Military Bases

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the future of Royal Air Force bases in Scotland. [67648]

David Mundell: Prior to the announcement of the Basing Review conclusions, the Secretary of State had regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Defence, on the future of the Royal Air Force bases in Scotland and other relevant matters.

Banks

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of major Scottish banks. [67647]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State meets regularly with representatives of major Scottish banks. He last met with representatives of the sector shortly before the House rose for the summer recess, and has further relevant engagements planned this week.

Banks: Pay

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussion he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on bonuses awarded by Scottish banks. [67646]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I meet regularly with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss a wide range of issues, including matters relevant to the banking sector in Scotland.

Child Benefit

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the potential impact on families in Scotland of reductions in child benefit. [67769]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 614W.

Child Poverty

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the level of child poverty in Scotland. [67651]

David Mundell: The most recent National Statistics publication on poverty and income inequality in Scotland shows that between 2008-09 and 2009-10 child poverty rates in three of the four statutory poverty indicators have decreased. Earlier this year both the UK and Scottish Governments published their respective Child Poverty Strategies, as required by the Child Poverty Act. The UK Government will continue to work closely with the devolved Administrations to reduce child poverty across all parts of the United Kingdom.

Conditions of Employment

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with trade unions in Scotland on proposals to alter employment law relating to redundancy and employment tribunals. [67771]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers are in regular contact with trade unions in Scotland on a range of issues.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the potential effect in Scotland of proposals to alter employment law relating to redundancy and employment tribunals. [67772]

David Mundell: Scotland Office ministers are committed to creating the right conditions for economic prosperity in Scotland, including the need to remove barriers to growth and job creation. UK Government officials have discussed the proposed Employment Tribunal changes with the Presidents of Employment Tribunals in England & Wales and Scotland.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67921]

David Mundell: All air travel is undertaken by the most efficient and cost effective way, in accordance with the Ministerial Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. In the last 12 months, the Secretary of State for Scotland has travelled in economy class on each occasion he has flown on official business, and on two of these occasions he used a budget airline.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many letters the Advocate-General for Scotland received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68767]

David Mundell: The Advocate-General for Scotland did not receive any correspondence from hon. Members of Parliament in June 2011.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party was refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister in November 2010. [67586]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I regularly meet with hon. Members from a range of political parties both formally and informally. The Scotland Office does not keep a record of declined meetings.

Disability

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of groups representing disabled people. [67774]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I are in regular contact with a range of individuals and organisations representing disabled people.

Energy Supply

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) when he last met with representatives of the six main energy providers in Scotland; [67803]

(2) what discussions he has had on recent electricity and gas price increases by energy suppliers in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [67804]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) is in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), and with representatives from the main energy suppliers in Scotland on a range of issues including the recent electricity and gas price increases.

Fuel Poverty

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of fuel poverty campaigners in Scotland. [67802]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I are in regular contact with a range of individuals and organisations on energy issues, including those relevant to fuel poverty.

Green Investment Bank

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the creation of the Green Investment Bank. [67805]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), has met on a number of occasions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and other interested Ministers to discuss the creation of the Green Investment Bank. In all relevant discussions, he has discussed Edinburgh's case to host the Bank.

Housing Benefit

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the impact in Scotland of changes to housing benefit. [67773]

David Mundell: The Scottish Government has published its own impact assessment of how changes to housing benefit announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the June 2010 Budget and October 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review may impact on those households in Scotland which currently rely on housing benefit to pay their rent. It builds on data previously provided by the Department for Work and Pensions and is available online from:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/supply-demand/chma/marketcontextmaterials/hbchangesscottishimpact/

Human Trafficking: Children

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met campaigners against the trafficking of children in Scotland. [67768]

David Mundell: I am in regular contact with Home Office Ministers to ensure that HM Government work closely with their partners in Scotland to implement the UK strategy to combat all trafficking crimes, including the trafficking of children.

Insolvency

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he is taking to reduce the number of business insolvencies in Scotland. [67649]

David Mundell: The Government's aim is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth, driven by investment and exports. In Scotland, we are committed to working with the Scottish Government to support businesses.

Shipbuilding

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on his remarks to the Scottish Affairs Committee on the future of shipbuilding in Scotland were it to separate from the Union; and if he will make a statement; [67645]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the state of the shipbuilding industry in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [67662]

David Mundell: Both the Secretary of State and I recognise the significant contribution shipbuilding makes to the Scottish economy.

Ministry of Defence contracts are critical to the future of Scotland's shipbuilding industry. That is why I welcome the decision, following the Strategic Defence and Security Review last year, to press ahead with building the Queen Elizabeth Carriers and to develop the new Type 26 Global Combat Ship which is intended to follow the Queen Elizabeth Class build programme.

The Secretary of State and I have had discussions with Defence Ministers on a range of issues. This Government firmly believe that Scotland benefits from being part of the United Kingdom and that the United Kingdom benefits from having Scotland within it and will continue to make that case.

Long-term Unemployment: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of levels of unemployment in Scotland; and what steps is he taking to reduce long-term unemployment in Scotland. [67650]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) and I pay close attention to levels of unemployment in Scotland. For example, we are hosting a series of seminars across Scotland to examine the particular challenge of youth unemployment.

The Government have introduced a range of measures to reduce long-term unemployment. These include creating the wider conditions for balanced, sustainable growth, and ensuring that work pays and that people on benefits who can work are given support to prepare and search for work. The Work Programme in particular is aimed at reducing long-term unemployment.

TRANSPORT

A1: Road Signs and Markings

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the temporary message signs alongside the southbound carriageway of the A1M were not activated on 11 June 2011 notifying motorists of the long delays occurring southbound north of the junction between the A1 and the M25; and if he will make a statement. [68489]

Mike Penning: The temporary message signs from Junction 6 to Junction 3 of the A1M were installed to provide information to drivers during the Hatfield Tunnel refurbishment works. This work is complete and the signs have been left in place to provide additional information in particular to drivers entering the widening works on the M25.

On 11 June 2011 between 6 am and 2 pm the East Regional Control Centre (ERCC) did not log any congestion, incident led or otherwise, within 10 km of Junction 2 of the A1M and therefore were not required to set these signs.

Unreported congestion may have caused these delays. On other sections of Motorway this would have been registered by the Motorway Detection and Automatic Signalling (MIDAS) system and Variable Message Signs (VMS) in the proximity of the congestion would have been activated to warn drivers. This system is not available for the temporary message signs Junction 6 to Junction 3.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason a number of the mobile message boards on the southbound carriageway of the A1(M) are not currently being activated to warn drivers of possible delays. [68655]

Mike Penning: The temporary message signs from Junction 6 to Junction 3 on the A1(M) were installed to provide information to drivers during the Hatfield Tunnel refurbishment works. This work is now complete and the signs have been left in place to provide additional information, in particular to drivers entering the widening works on the M25. The system is still active but is not connected to the Highways Agency's Control Office Based System which controls the standard Variable Message Signs.

The temporary signs are controlled by a stand-alone personal computer located in the East Region Control Centre (ERCC) and are operated manually by ERCC staff. As the system is stand alone the Motorway Detection and Automatic Signalling system which detects and signs for congestion is not available for the temporary message signs from Junction 6 to Junction 3.

Airlines: Competition

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will include a passengers rights framework within the Economic Regulation of Airports Bill for the purposes of protecting consumers at airports from anti-competitive airline practices; and if he will make a statement. [68607]

Mrs Villiers: The proposed reforms to the framework for airport economic regulation would give the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) a primary duty to promote the interests of existing and future passengers. Under the new regime airports with substantial market power and for whom regulation adds real value would need a licence and CAA would have powers to impose conditions on these airports to promote passengers' interests.

The airline sector is generally very competitive. Like most other sectors in the UK economy, their prices and service quality are not regulated. Instead airlines are subject to UK and European competition law, which is enforced by the UK and European competition authorities.

There is also a range of existing legislation which aims to protect consumers in the airline sector, including the Denied Boarding Compensation Regulations and the Passengers with Reduced Mobility Regulations.

In addition, CAA has been consulting on the proposal to set up an aviation consumer advocate panel, which would provide independent advice to CAA on consumer issues. The Government are also consulting on a number of reforms to ensure that consumer advice, representation and enforcement, more generally, are delivered effectively and efficiently.

Airports: Rail Connections

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to improve intermodal connectivity between airports and the rail network. [69383]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognises the importance of good surface access transport links to airports and the crucial role the public sector must play in their delivery.

The Government are pressing ahead with major rail improvement schemes including Crossrail, Thameslink and the tube upgrades. A consultation has also recently closed on High Speed Rail. These projects are expected to benefit passengers travelling to some of our busiest airports, including Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and Birmingham.

Aviation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the Civil Aviation Authority's proposed Future Airspace Strategy for the UK 2011 to 2030. [69315]

Mrs Villiers: The Government support the development of the Civil Aviation Authority's Future Airspace Strategy.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to bring forward legislative proposals to vest the Civil Aviation Authority and Office of Fair Trading with powers to enforce Article 23 of EC Regulation 1008/2008. [69521]

Mrs Villiers: We intend to introduce regulations to that effect later this year. Until they are in place, the Civil Aviation Authority is able to use its enforcement powers under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 to ensure greater transparency in the sale of air fares.

Aviation: Working Hours

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether flight time limitations for pilots were discussed at the EU Transport Council meeting of 16 June 2011; and what the outcome was of any such discussions. [69457]

Mrs Villiers: The issue of flight time limitations was not discussed at the EU Transport Council meeting of 16 June 2011.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of business on plans to extend high speed services to the North West. [69030]

Mr Philip Hammond: I recently met with businesses and business representatives in the North West when I spoke at the High Speed Rail summit hosted by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce on 25 July 2011, about the Government's proposals on High Speed 2. In addition, the Department regularly meets with business representatives in the North West and across the country, including Chambers of Commerce and Local Enterprise Partnerships, to discuss transport matters, including High Speed 2.

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the assessment of HS2 in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [69767]

Mr Philip Hammond: The information requested is as follows:

Funding allocated to planning and preparation for HS2, 2014-15

£ million

	Pre-2011-12	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource spending	21.3	116.1	163.3	89.4	204.2
Capital* spending	3.1	50	50	50	50

M6: Noise

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ask the Highways Agency to commission a survey on the effect of road noise from Junction 9 of the M6 motorway. [69768]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is currently working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) who were tasked with identifying 'First Priority Locations' of areas impacted by traffic noise, which are to be investigated as a matter of priority.

The M6 at Junction 9 has been identified as a 'First Priority Location' and the Highways Agency aims to complete its investigation into noise at this location by the end of 2011. This will identify any options for mitigating road traffic noise. Implementation will be subject to available funding.

Additionally, following the recent introduction of hard shoulder running at peak times on the M6 between Junctions 8 to 10a, the Highways Agency are monitoring noise levels across the length of the scheme, including Junction 9, to compare with noise readings taken before the scheme was introduced. The results of this separate study are anticipated to be available from March 2012.

Maritime Labour Convention

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to implement the Maritime Labour Convention; and if he will make a statement. [69485]

Mike Penning: The UK is already largely compliant with the requirements of the Convention. Discussions are ongoing, including with the trade unions and the shipping industry, over the areas that will require amendments to current legislation to ensure full compliance. The Convention cannot be implemented piecemeal.

In line with our policy of ensuring that all possible non-regulatory approaches have been explored and that there is a robust argument for the Government to legislate, full impact assessments are being prepared setting out the arguments for legislation and non-legislative approaches. Subject to a satisfactory conclusion, the Government will then go to public consultation.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations his Department has received on its plans to review the frequency of MOT testing since May 2010. [69769]

Mike Penning: From May 2010 up to 16 August 2011, the Department for Transport received 311 representations on its plans to review the frequency of MOT testing. These representations consisted of 242 letters from MPs, 47 letters from the general public, six ministerial meetings, one invitation and 15 parliamentary questions.

Ragwort

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fines the Highways Agency has received for allowing ragwort to grow on highway verges in the period since 2007. [69579]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency has not received any fines in respect of ragwort and takes this perennial problem very seriously. Areas of particular concern are identified and efforts are targeted at infestations of the weed growing close to animal pasture. Herbicides are used as a spot treatment throughout the year when the plant is at the rosette stage and in full flower.

The agency continues to monitor and treat known sites.

Northern Rail

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has retained funds from the revenue-sharing arrangements made in relation to the Northern franchise; and for what purpose. [69486]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has one budget line for Support for Passenger Rail services which includes a combination of income and subsidy payments arising from its franchise agreements with each Train Operator Company, of which the Northern revenue-share arrangements is one element. The overall position in respect of TOC income/subsidy forms one part of the Department's DEL within its SR settlement and receipts from individual TOCs are not matched against specific areas of departmental expenditure.

Railways: North West

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on rail infrastructure in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [69471]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport is not directly responsible for expenditure on rail infrastructure. This role is fulfilled by Network Rail whom the Department fund by way of a grant.

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of progress in the development of the Northern Hub; and if he will make a statement. [69545]

Mrs Villiers: In March 2011, the go-ahead was announced for the construction of Ordsall Chord; the first phase of the Northern Hub. Subject to achieving the necessary planning consents, this scheme will be completed by December 2016 allowing faster trains between Leeds and Manchester. Network Rail is undertaking further development work for the remaining phases and a decision will be made in July 2012 as part of the next High Level Output Specification on whether elements will be implemented during the period 2014 to 2019.

Rescue Services

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on its consultation on the future of Liverpool, Holyhead and Belfast coastguard stations. [68449]

Mike Penning: The consultation on revised proposals to modernise Her Majesty's Coastguard is due to complete on 6 October 2011 at which point responses will be considered and final decisions taken. The consultation covers all Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres within the HM Coastguard structure and takes a national view. It is not possible to apportion costs to individual stations in Liverpool, Holyhead and Belfast.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons he has concluded that Belfast coastguard station should not close; and whether he was aware of these reasons prior to his Department's consultation. [68488]

Mike Penning: In response to the consultation I have considered the special circumstances that are associated with the Belfast rescue centre as set out in the original consultation, including the management of civil resilience arrangements specific to Northern Ireland, the relationship with rescue services in the Republic of Ireland, and its position as the only rescue centre within the devolved Administration.

Consultees emphasised the need for a local presence to ensure effective routine co-operation with the Northern Ireland Executive, local authorities and emergency services, and to ensure alignment of approaches to civil resilience, civil contingencies and operational arrangements. After careful consideration of all representations, the Government decided to retain a Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) in Belfast.

Rolling Stock: Greater Manchester

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any of the rolling stock to be deployed to alleviate overcrowded peak hour rail services into Greater Manchester will be new. [69042]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is committed to the procurement of at least 36 new Electric Multiple carriages for the Manchester-Scotland route.

The procurement of these carriages is being led by London Midland, supported by TransPennine Express.

The Department is currently negotiating with the two train operating companies on the commercial terms for introducing such trains into service.

Assuming that commercial agreement can be reached between all the parties, there should be an announcement later this year.

Thameslink Railway Line

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Thameslink programme is proceeding on *(a)* time and *(b)* budget. [69489]

Mrs Villiers: The Thameslink Programme is proceeding to time and within budget.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to answer question 56686 tabled on 17 May 2011 for answer on 24 May 2011 relating to biofuel exports. [68479]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1092W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Police

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the Council of Ministers amended decision 2010/279/CFSP; what reasons were given for the increase in expenditure on EU police activity in Afghanistan; and what estimate has been made of the expenditure required after July 2012. [69246]

Mr Lidington: 2010/279/CFSP set out the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan's tasks and objectives for the three year period ending 31 May 2013 and provided a budget of €54.6 million for the first year. The Council of Ministers decided on 23 May 2011 that this amount would be sufficient to cover a further two months of activity until 31 July 2011.

The amendment on 25 July 2011 (2011/473/CFSP) was to provide the budget of €60.5 million for the period 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012. The increase in expenditure was partly due to improved staffing levels, but also due to increased security costs. The Government have provided detailed information on this new budget to Parliament in the Explanatory Memorandum provided to the European Scrutiny Committee and the House of Lords EU Select Committee. Their analysis can be found at

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmeuleg/428-xxxiv/42818.htm

No estimates have yet been made of the budget after July 2012. We are working to ensure it represents value for money while still allowing the Mission to deliver its objectives and operate effectively in a challenging environment.

Anguilla: Public Appointments

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria were used by the Deputy Governor to Anguilla in appointing the permanent secretaries of Anguillan Government Departments. [69388]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford, to the noble Lord Jones of Cheltenham on 11 August 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA454.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Deputy Governor to Anguilla had with the Chief Minister concerning the appointment of permanent secretaries of Anguillan Government Departments. [69389]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for ensuring that the Anguilla Public Service is appropriately staffed and run has been delegated by the Governor to the Deputy Governor, who is the most senior member of the Anguillan Public Service.

While the British Government have no direct responsibility for making appointments within the Anguilla Public Service, I understand that the Deputy Governor discussed the transfer of Permanent Secretaries with the Chief Minister recently and that they have also exchanged correspondence on the matter.

I also understand that the Deputy Governor informed the Executive Council earlier this year that consideration was being given to the movement of Permanent Secretaries within the Public Service. I am therefore fully satisfied that the Deputy Governor met the requirement placed on him under s.66 of the Anguilla Constitution to consult the Chief Minister.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the jamming of opposition television stations in Bahrain; and what representations his Department has made to the Government of Bahrain on this matter. [69360]

Alistair Burt: The television stations in Bahrain are state owned, and we are unaware of television stations belonging to opposition groups. However, there have been reports from the main opposition group (Al-Wefaq) stating that the authorities in Bahrain have blocked an internet-based live broadcasting medium used by them.

We continue to call on the Government of Bahrain to guarantee its citizens the universal human rights and freedoms to which they are entitled, meet all its human rights obligations and uphold political freedoms, equal access to justice and the rule of law. The Government and the security forces must respect the civil rights of peaceful protestors, the right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to strengthen relations with Bosnia Herzegovina; and what steps he plans to take to assist in *(a)* maintaining an international presence in support of the Dayton peace accords and *(b)* guaranteeing the country's territorial integrity. [69371]

Mr Lidington: The UK maintains a close and active bilateral relationship with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). In July, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs met with BiH Foreign Minister Sven Alkalaj in London and underlined the UK's commitment to a strong and constructive bilateral relationship with BiH. In June, I visited BiH, meeting government, parliament, the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and civil society representatives. On 11 July, Baroness Warsi represented the UK Government at the commemoration of the 16th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica and had a wider programme of meetings. Our bilateral relationship with BiH ranges across a variety of issues, for example the UK has worked closely with BiH during its two years as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (2010-11).

The UK is actively committed to BiH as a sovereign, stable country with functioning state-level institutions, irreversibly on path to EU and NATO. We urge progress towards the formation of a state-level Government. We are fully committed to the territorial integrity of BiH and have repeatedly made clear that challenges to the structure of the state established by the Dayton Peace Agreement are unacceptable.

The UK Government fully and strongly supports the OHR in its efforts to improve the functionality of the state and to deal promptly and decisively with challenges to the Dayton Agreement. The UK has consistently argued for strong international support for the High Representative, and to uphold the '5+2' objectives and conditions necessary for the OHR's closure. We have also worked to help reinvigorate the EU's strategy towards, and presence in, BiH, while maintaining the safeguards provided by the High Representative and the EU Peacekeeping mission, EUFOR Althea. We welcome the new EU Special Representative assuming his mandate in September, as a means of strengthening EU engagement with BiH, working with the range of international actors.

The international community can however only do so much: the onus must be on Bosnian politicians to act responsibly and in the interests of the Bosnian people. We continue to give this clear and unequivocal message in country.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Bosnia following the decision by the Republica Srpska leadership on a referendum on the competencies of the judicial institutions and certain powers bestowed on the EU High Representative. [69375]

Mr Lidington: The political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is of serious concern. A new state-level Government have still not been formed following elections in October 2010. There has been a failure to deliver important reforms which are necessary for progress towards the EU and which would improve the functionality of the Bosnian state.

On 13 April 2011 the RS National Assembly (RSNA) passed Conclusions calling a referendum on the authority of state-level judicial institutions, and rejecting the authority and past decisions of the High Representative in BiH. This was a serious development. The UK made clear that Conclusions represented a serious challenge to the Dayton Agreement and the rule of law in BiH and condemned the move.

We welcomed the firm response from the international community, including the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) and EU. We also welcomed active EU engagement, including by EU High Representative Baroness Ashton which led to RS President Dodik pledging to repeal referendum legislation, in return for a dialogue on judicial issues. This dialogue was in fact already allowed for as part of the EU accession process. We noted the annulment of the referendum decision on 1 June. We welcomed the PIC Steering Board of 29 June reiterating that the 13 April Conclusions do not discharge the requirement of the RS authorities to meet their obligations under Dayton. We urge participants in the EU dialogue to engage constructively, but recall that this is a technical dialogue aimed at accession standards, not a political forum.

The UK's support for the Office of the High Representative in upholding the Dayton Agreement will continue to be firm and unwavering. The Government are firmly committed to BiH as a sovereign, stable country with functioning state-level institutions, irreversibly on the path to EU and NATO membership. We are engaging actively to this end and continue to urge political leaders to form quickly a broad-based and representative government, capable of undertaking reforms.

China: Human Rights

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what recent occasions he has raised human rights with his Chinese counterpart; and what areas of human rights policy were raised. [69538]

Mr Hague: I spoke to Foreign Secretary Yang on 3 June. I urged him to agree the dates for the next round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue during the UK-China Summit on 27 June. At the Summit we agreed to hold the next round of the Dialogue before 23 January 2012 (Chinese New Year).

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) and I also raised human rights when we met Vice-Foreign Minister Fu Ying on 10 May. We discussed our concerns about individual cases, including that of Ai Weiwei.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* US and *(b)* EU counterparts on human rights in China. [69543]

Mr Hague: I am in regular contact with both my US and EU counterparts on international human rights issues, including discussions on specific countries of concern, such as China. EU Foreign Ministers frequently discuss our specific concerns in EU fora.

Colombia: Human Rights

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what human rights issues he raised in his recent meeting with the Foreign Minister of Colombia.. [69544]

Mr Hague: I met the Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin on 13 July. We discussed Colombia's new Land and Victims Law and processes to ensure its proper implementation, including the need for adequate protection for all people returning to their land. I offered Her Majesty's Government's expertise and guidance in land registration and related issues to assist the implementation of the law.

I welcomed progress made and stressed the importance of continued work in areas such as protection of human rights defenders and impurity. We will continue to work with Colombia to tackle these challenges including by supporting their international human rights conference next year.

Council of Europe: Costs

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the UK of the common costs of the Council of Europe have been in each year since 2003; what proportion of the common costs of the Council of Europe the UK paid in each such year; and what the cost to the public purse in pounds sterling was of the UK's representation in the *(a)* Committee of Ministers and *(b)* Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in each such year. [68626]

Mr Lidington: The following table shows the totals of the Council of Europe (CoE) Ordinary Budget between 2003 and 2010, the contribution made by the UK, and the proportion of the total paid by the UK.

The office of the UK Delegation to the CoE is responsible for, among other things, representing the UK at regular meetings of the Committee of Ministers. Its running costs by financial year are shown in the table. Figures before 2004 are not available.

Cost of UK Delegation to the Council of Europe

Financial year	*£ Sterling*
2004-05	985,668
2005-06	773,530
2006-07	863,551
2007-08	578,337
2008-09	843,271
2009-10	727,190
2010-11	565,229

National delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) are politically independent and do not represent national governments. PACE activities and running costs are funded from the Council of Europe's Ordinary Budget, and Parliament pays for the expenses of the UK delegation to PACE. The following table shows the UK's contribution to the PACE allocation from the Ordinary Budget.

UK contribution to PACE's allocation from the Ordinary Budge

	Euros
2003	1,663,966
2004	1,729,629
2005	1,787,644
2006	1,825,013
2007	1,825,891
2008	1,785,771
2009	1,760,947
2010	1,753,434

Cyprus

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are stationed in the sovereign territories of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [68866]

Mr Lidington: The Sovereign Base Areas are military bases on the island of Cyprus and are administered by the Ministry of Defence. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no officials stationed in Akrotiri or Dhekelia.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to commission an official standard for the sovereign territories of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [68867]

Mr Lidington: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 5 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 878W.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to offer *(a)* assistance and *(b)* monitoring for the forthcoming election in Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [69083]

Mr Bellingham: The British Government, through the Department for International Development, is offering significant assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo elections, aimed primarily at ensuring that everyone has the right to vote, and encouraging as wide a participation as possible.

We are also supporting critical logistics assistance from MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping force, to which the UK contributes through UN assessed contributions.

The EU plans to deploy an election observation mission for a period of three and a half months, from the end of September 2011 until mid-January 2012. We will also stay in close contact with other Congolese and international election observers, including the Carter Centre.

These elections can help embed a democratic tradition in Congo, and mark an important milestone on the road to lasting peace and prosperity.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69264]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) methodology follows the efficiency measures as defined by the Cabinet Office which drive savings in procurement, major projects and estates. In August 2011 the Cabinet Office announced £3.75 billion savings over 2010-11 supported by methodologies which include the following initiatives:

> Consulting: a moratorium is in place and savings are calculated from differences between 2009-10 and 2010-11 departmental reported spend.
>
> Crown Commercial Representatives (major cross-Government suppliers): savings have been agreed with individual suppliers via Memoranda of Understanding.
>
> Contingent labour: savings are calculated from the differences between 2009-10 and 2010-11 departmental reported spend.

The FCO calculates its savings according to a methodology defined for each initiative, either in accordance with the Cabinet Office methodology where available or to an equivalent methodology where the category is specific to the FCO. Equivalent pricing in 2009-10 is usually taken as the baseline. Non-departmental public bodies are requested to follow the same procedures.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69513]

Mr Bellingham: Records indicate that as of 1 July, there were no people working in unpaid positions, as unpaid interns, or doing unpaid work experience in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). There were, however, 33 people working on paid intern schemes, which we use to encourage participants to consider the FCO as a career.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what agreements on climate change and security were made at the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 18 July 2011. [69381]

Mr Bellingham: The EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted Conclusions that acknowledged the security implications and threat to stability posed by climate change, on 18 July. These Conclusions recognised that climate change acts as a threat multiplier exacerbating tensions over land, water, food and energy prices, and contributes to migratory pressures and desertification.

The Council recognised the need to build on work already undertaken on climate change and international security and agreed the EU will continue to raise global awareness of the security risks to, and threat multiplier nature of, climate change. The Council also agreed on the need to drive forward the global debate on climate change and international security and welcomed the increasing attention of the UN Security Council on the security aspects of climate change. The Council called for increased effort from all relevant EU actors to address climate change at all political levels and agreed that climate change and international security should be a strand for action for EU climate diplomacy, and that the Council would review progress at a future Foreign Affairs Council.

This discussion and adoption of Conclusions represents clear agreement that, as the UK National Security Strategy 2010 made clear, climate change is a foreign policy and security challenge.

European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of the European Court of Justice on breaches of the provisions of the former Article 227 of the treaty establishing the European Community. [69737]

Mr Lidington: There have been no bilateral discussions between the UK and the Court on the operation of Article 227 EC (now Article 259 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

The UK agents to the Court participate in periodic meetings between the member state agents to the Court and the Court, where a broad range of issues relating to the operation and work load of the Court may be discussed, including matters such as the procedures applicable to cases under Article 259 TfEU.

Export Controls

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what evidence his Department's recent review of export control policy considered; [69537]

(2) which overseas posts provided evidence considered by his Department's review of export control policy; [69539]

(3) which *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department were involved in his Department's recent review of export control policy. [69540]

Mr Hague: On 16 March 2011, I announced that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) would undertake a thorough review of the UK's policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in particular crowd control goods, in light of events in the Middle East and North Africa.

All relevant FCO officials and Ministers were involved in the review, which considered evidence supplied by relevant cross-Whitehall and FCO departments. The Review also considered evidence supplied by our Posts in the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* minutes, *(b)* evidence and *(c)* reports prepared as part of his Department's recent review of export control policy. [69541]

Mr Hague: This was an internal Foreign and Commonwealth Office review and will not be published.

Goran Hadzic

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Serbian counterpart on the extradition of Goran Hadzic to the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement. [68689]

Mr Lidington: Goran Hadzic, the last remaining indictee sought by the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY), was arrested by the Serbian authorities on 20 July 2011 and transferred to the ICTY in The Hague on 22 July 2011. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a statement on 20 July, welcomed the arrest as a historic moment for international justice and for the victims of war crimes during the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s. He expressed his hope that the arrest will mark the closing of a horrific and traumatic chapter for the people of the region. The Foreign Secretary also congratulated the Serbian authorities and called for continued co-operation with the ICTY in supporting existing and future trials. The Government will continue to give firm support to the ICTY and the vital role it plays in upholding international justice.

India: Terrorism

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of India on the recent bombings in Mumbai; and if he will make a statement. [69542]

Mr Hague: In my statement of 13 July, I said that the bomb attacks in Mumbai were deplorable acts of terrorism. Senior members of Her Majesty's Government spoke to their counterparts after the attacks to pass condolences and offer support on behalf of the UK. The UK is committed to working with the Indian Government and other international partners to combat the threat from terrorism in all its forms.

Libya: Overseas Students

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Libyan national students sponsored by the Libyan Government who were studying in *(a)* Leicester City local authority area and *(b)* Leicester South constituency in academic year 2010-11. [69436]

Alistair Burt: Information relating to the time period requested is currently not available. However, the 2010-11 statistics for higher education will be published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2012, but these will cover students only in higher education, and not those in further or secondary education.

United Arab Emirates: British Nationals Abroad

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have directly contacted the government of the United Arab Emirates to express concern over the treatment of UK citizens under arrest or imprisonment in that country in each of the last five years. [69213]

Alistair Burt: This information is available only at a disproportionate cost. However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office takes all allegations of mistreatment very seriously, and with the permission of the British national involved will raise these with the relevant local authorities. I meet my United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart on a quarterly basis at the UK-UAE task force and this is one opportunity to raise such cases. Our embassy would also forward the allegations of mistreatment and ask for a full, prompt and impartial investigation to be conducted.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings Ministers in his Department had with an hon. Member who has contacted them regarding constituents or family members of constituents who have been arrested or imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates in each of the last five years. [69214]

Alistair Burt: This information is available only at a disproportionate cost. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and our Consular Directorate in London are very happy to meet with families to talk about relatives in detention and services that the FCO can and cannot provide.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions a Minister in his Department was contacted by an hon. Member in relation to constituents or family members of constituents in the United Arab Emirates who have requested assistance from the hon. Member in respect of arrest or imprisonment in that country in each of the last five years. [69215]

Alistair Burt: This information is available only at a disproportionate cost. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and our Consular Directorate in London are very happy to be contacted by hon. Members in relation to constituents or family members of constituents detained overseas.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens died *(a)* in police custody and *(b)* while serving a prison sentence in the United Arab Emirates in each of the last five years. [69216]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our missions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are aware of one British national who has died in police custody. We are not aware of any British nationals who have died while serving a prison sentence in the UAE in the last five years.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions UK citizens have successfully appealed against a conviction in the United Arab Emirates in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases the successful appeal followed intervention by his Department. [69217]

Alistair Burt: This information is available only at disproportionate cost. However, appealing a sentence is for an individual's lawyers to do. We are prevented by international law from interfering or intervening in the legal procedures of an independent state. The British legal system is similarly protected.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has intervened in court cases involving UK citizens in the United Arab Emirates because of concerns over due process in each of the last five years. [69218]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is unable to intervene in the legal procedures of an independent state. The British legal system is similarly protected. However, we do make representations to the authorities of another state where we judge there has been an significant delay in process, and we can consider making representations should a lawyer of an individual feel that they are being prevented by the authorities from acting on behalf of their client or the legal procedures are being conducted in such a way that breaches local law.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has been contacted by UK citizens or their families for assistance after they have been arrested in the United Arab Emirates in each of the last five years. [69219]

Alistair Burt: This information is not centrally held and is available only at disproportionate cost. Given the numbers of prisoners, and their often long-running cases, we estimate that the occasions that families have contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the embassies for assistance would run into the thousands.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have been arrested in the United Arab Emirates in each of the last five years. [69220]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and our embassies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be aware of British nationals who have been detained in the UAE in each of the last five years only if the individual chooses to inform us. The number of British nationals detained in each of the last five years, of which the FCO is aware, are as follows:

	Number
2007	150
2008	279
2009	266
2010	241
2011[1]	122

[1] To date.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens are imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates *(a)* after conviction and *(b)* awaiting trial. [69643]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are aware of 35 British nationals who are currently serving a sentence in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), The FCO is also aware of 14 British nationals who are at the pre-trial stage and 124 British nationals who are on bail in the UAE. Supporting British nationals in difficulty around the world is a vital part of the work of the FCO. This support is explained in our publication 'Support for British nationals abroad: A guide'.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he holds on *(a)* the type of offences for which UK citizens are serving a prison sentence in the United Arab Emirates and *(b)* the number held for each such offence, including specifying how many are imprisoned against each offence. [69647]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be aware of British nationals that are detained in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) only if they have contacted one of the British embassies for assistance. The types of offences that British nationals are serving a prison sentence for, and the number of individuals held for such offences, this year so far (as at 23 August 2011) are as follows:

Financial charges (including bounced cheques, money laundering, fraud, counterfeit etc.): 21

Drug and alcohol related charges (including possession and trafficking): nine

Murder/manslaughter/assault: four

Immigration offences/false documents: three

Burglary/trespassing: four

Breach of trust: two.

Please note that some of the British nationals detained may be charged with more than one offence.

United Nations: Finance

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department plans to allocate to each agency of the United Nations in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [69832]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not pay the regular budget (subscription costs) of the UN's specialised agencies. These costs are paid by the UK Government Department leading on the respective policy areas of the specialised agencies. FCO programme funds may in theory be used to deliver projects through UN specialised agencies in the next three financial years. However, this will depend on competing bids in the period.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to the United Nations in each year since 2000, how much he plans to allocate in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [69848]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays the UK contribution to the United Nations regular budget, which covers the running costs of the UN headquarters/secretariats and some of their core activities. The UK is billed in US dollars and since 2000 has contributed a total of US$1,123,679,857. The breakdown is as follows:

	$
2000	53,562,152
2001	57,588,929
2002	61,951,540
2003	74,742, 944
2004	87, 985,732
2005	109,030,513
2006	104,563,268
2007	132,890,130
2008	121,483,273
2009	161,820,119
2010	139,648,230
2011	155, 107,511

Since 2000 the FCO has also funded a number of small projects with UN involvement. However aggregation of the data would involve disproportionate costs.

The UN regular budget is negotiated biennially, with the next negotiation taking place this autumn for the budget period 2012-13. Furthermore the UK's share of contributions to that budget is subject to periodic changes according to the Scales of Assessment, rating countries' capacity to pay. Therefore it is not possible to project precisely what the UK will pay over the next three years.

Venezuela: Human Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Venezuela on *(a)* human rights and *(b)* compliance with international law. [69552]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We regularly discuss human rights issues with the Government of Venezuela, both bilaterally and through the European Union (EU). In the last year, we have worked with the Venezuelan Government and Venezuelan civil society on areas of mutual interest such as police reform and good governance. Venezuela is due to be the subject of a Universal Periodic Review of its human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council in October. Venezuela has ratified the main international human rights treaties and we monitor its compliance with them, as with all countries.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Absent Parents

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition he uses of therapeutic justice style of approach in respect of the voluntary arrangements with non-resident parents; and if he will place in the Library the evidence on the effectiveness of a therapeutic justice style of approach. [68435]

Maria Miller: I outlined within the Work and Pension Select Committee on 15 June that therapeutic justice, as defined by the Centre for Separated Families, may play an important part of how we manage people through family breakdowns to successful outcomes for their children. The definition we are using is:

> 'Therapeutic Justice in the sense of Child Maintenance is defined as transforming behaviour by using joined up support to help parents who are struggling with the emotional impacts of separation to come to shared agreements'

The Government are working with leading organisations to establish a coherent way in which parents can be signposted to the most appropriate support using a "therapeutic justice" style of approach—supporting parents to work through emotional issues so they can deal with more practical issues. We are enlisting the input of a Steering Group made up of academics and leading organisations from the voluntary and community sector. The Steering Group will assist in building a robust evidence base about what support can help different families and examine whether therapeutic justice would be an appropriate approach.

Access to Work Programme

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to enable Work programme providers to provide professional qualifications. [69332]

Chris Grayling: Work programme providers have the flexibility to design personalised approaches to help people back to work. If providers consider that a professional qualification is the most appropriate route back to work for an individual, and they have the funding, then the Work programme is flexible enough to allow this.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the performance of Work programme providers in *(a)* Bedford constituency, *(b)* the East and *(c)* the UK. [69333]

Chris Grayling: All Work programme providers performed well in getting the new service up and running in every area on time.

It will be some time yet before it is possible to assess the performance of the Work programme in getting people back to work. The programme just started in June 2011, it lasts two years for each individual and, as providers only receive job outcome payments once a participant has been in employment and off benefit for up to 26 weeks, it will be 2012 before job outcomes start to be recorded in substantial numbers.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet the required high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish national statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012.

As participation lasts for two years, we expect to see substantial indications of the success of the Work programme from spring 2013. A full independent evaluation has been commissioned for that year and I look forward to sharing the results with the House in due course. We will closely monitor the effectiveness of the programme in the interim.

Access to Work Programme: Visual Impairment

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department has put in place to enable deafblind people to receive specialist support to access the labour market. [69415]

Chris Grayling: New measures introduced in April 2011 allow Jobcentre Plus to offer more flexible support to deaf/blind people, ensuring provision is tailored to personal and local labour market needs.

This includes advice and support about maintaining well-being and managing health in preparation for a return to work

A flexible support fund has been created from a number of discretionary adviser funds and programmes targeted towards overcoming barriers to employment, which district managers can use to offer additional support according to local need.

The Work programme is a cross benefit programme that ensures providers are free to innovate and design support that addresses the needs of individuals. Work programme providers are paid more to support harder to help groups into sustained employment, including those claiming employment support allowance.

In addition, disabled people may be able to access a range of specialist employment provision including:

> Work Choice which provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment, find and stay in work;
>
> Access to Work which provides practical support to disabled people and their employers to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability;
>
> Remploy Employment Services which delivers employment support for disabled people, including through the Work Choice programme and Remploy Enterprise Businesses—a network of 54 factories across the UK, providing supported employment to disabled people;
>
> Residential Training, which is delivered through nine Residential Training Colleges, providing vocational training to unemployed disabled adults.

Jobcentre Plus disability employment advisers offer help with finding and retaining employment. Where appropriate, they can refer individuals to specialist programmes that help disabled people move into paid work, including Residential Training and Work Choice. They may also use the professional expertise of Work Psychologists specialising in working with disabled people if required. They can advocate with employers on the individual's behalf and help employers to explore job solutions such as the restructuring of a job's tasks or the environment, or the provision of, or change to equipment.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the provision of specialist support services for deafblind people through the Access to Work programme. [69416]

Chris Grayling: Access to Work is a pan-disability programme. While there are no plans to specifically review how Access to Work support for the deafblind is delivered the Department is currently considering how to update the range of support it provides for disabled people in the light of the Sayce review recommendations and subsequent consultation.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what incentives are in place to encourage Work programme providers to support people with combined hearing and sight loss into sustained employment. [69417]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme is designed to give providers the flexibility to design personalised approaches to help each individual participant back to work.

Providers delivering the Work programme have been chosen, among other reasons, for their ability to deliver specialist support to people who have longer term barriers to work, including physical barriers such as hearing and sight loss. They will be predominantly paid by results, for helping people into sustained jobs and with higher payments for the hardest to help. This incentive ensures it is in providers' financial interests to help all individuals overcome their personal challenges.

We recognise there will be some for whom the Work programme is not appropriate. The Government are committed to supporting severely disabled people and so the Work Choice programme provides more intensive support for disabled people with more complex barriers to finding and staying in employment.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment support his Department provides to deafblind people placed in the work-related activity group who will not be fit for work within three months. [69418]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus advisers offer back-to-work support for all people claiming employment and support allowance, whether they are placed in the support group or the work-related activity group (WRAG). Those in the support group can access this help voluntarily; most of those in the WRAG are expected to take steps to prepare themselves for a return to work. This support is available from the individual's Jobcentre Plus adviser or via a Work programme provider where a person volunteers for, or is required to join, this new scheme. A diagnosis of every individual's circumstances is performed to establish a tailor-made package of support or training that will best help that person to secure work.

Assistance available from Jobcentre Plus includes the "Get Britain Working" measures and locally arranged provision as agreed by the Jobcentre Plus District manager to reflect the local labour market.

Specialist help is also available via disability employment advisers (DEAs) who can refer individuals to specialist programmes, including Residential Training and Work Choice. They may also use the professional expertise of work psychologists specialising in working with disabled people if required. They can advocate with employers on the individual's behalf and help employers to explore job solutions such as the restructuring of a job's tasks or the environment, or the provision of, or change to equipment. They can also signpost customers to the Access to Work service.

Child Maintenance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the use of exemptions of overseas earnings from payments to the Child Support Agency for fathers employed by *(a)* overseas companies, *(b)* offshore companies and *(c)* shipping and other sea-based companies. [69261]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the. use of exemptions of overseas earnings from payments to the Child Support Agency for fathers employed by (a) overseas companies, (b) offshore companies and (c) shipping and other sea-based companies. [69261]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) has jurisdiction, i.e. legal authority, to make a maintenance calculation and collect child support maintenance only when the parent with care, the non-resident parent and the qualifying child are all habitually resident in the United Kingdom (UK). Habitual residence is a legal concept which means more than simply 'where you live'. A person can habitually reside in more than one country or in none. Habitual residence can continue during an absence from UK.

Under the current child maintenance scheme, which deals with cases opened since March 2003, if the non-resident parent works for a company based overseas, it is not possible for earnings on which UK tax has not been paid to be taken into account within the maintenance calculation. This is because such earnings do not align with the statutory definition of net weekly earnings upon which the calculation is based. The Commission continues to have jurisdiction over any additional income earned and taxed in Great Britain. Any arrears that were built up while the non-resident parent was earning in Great Britain would continue to be enforceable if the non-resident parent subsequently became entirely dependent on income from overseas.

The Commission has reviewed child maintenance cases under the 2003 child maintenance scheme where the Commission determines a non-resident parent has no assessable income and is presently in the process of proposing regulatory changes which will resolve this anomaly to some degree.

The Commission has just launched an external consultation with stakeholders on these regulatory changes; one of which will include a new measure that would allow the Commission to take into account the UK taxable earnings of all non-resident parents (including those that work offshore and seafarers) that are habitually resident in the UK, even if they are paid abroad. This will reduce the number of cases where the Commission is required to make a nil-assessment. The Consultation commenced on the 26 July and will end on 26 October 2011. You can obtain a copy of the consultation at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/CSMA-Consultation-May-2011.pdf

We are also aware that there might be a small proportion of non-resident parents, who although habitually resident in the UK for child maintenance purposes are non-resident for UK tax purposes; and as such will continue to be nil-assessed. We are presently reviewing this matter to establish how best to handle such cases.

Finally, I should also add that recent EU legislation which came into effect in June 2011 allows the Commission to recover arrears of maintenance which have arisen in a case within the statutory maintenance schemes from non-resident parents who live within the EU.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many mothers were refused payments from the Child Support Agency as a result of the father receiving his earnings overseas in the latest period for which figures are available. [69262]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many mothers were refused payments from the Child Support Agency as a result of the father receiving his earnings overseas in the latest period for which figures are available. [69262]

Information is not available for the number of mothers refused payments from the Child Support Agency as a result of the father receiving his earnings overseas.

The Child Support Agency does however record the number of live cases where the residential address of the non-resident parentis abroad. As at June 2011 there were 7,130 live cases where the non-resident parent is recorded as living abroad. Of these, 5,020 cases existed where there was a liability to pay child maintenance with 2,110 cases being nil-assessed. Management information does not record the reason why cases are nil-assessed. Maintenance was received in 3,440 of the cases with a liability to pay maintenance.

The fact the non resident parent lives abroad does not necessarily mean that all of their income is earned abroad.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of likely *(a)* demand and *(b)* take-up of council tax benefit in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area in each of the next five years. [69340]

Steve Webb: The forecast number of council tax benefit claimants in England from 2011-12 to 2015-16 is in the table. Forecasts are not produced at local authority level.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*
Council Tax Benefit claimants in England (thousand)	4,908	4,818	4,684	4,575	4,501

Source:
Budget 2011 forecasts.

Forecasts are for the numbers of people who are receiving council tax benefit at a point in time. There are no forecasts of numbers eligible, or numbers who make a claim. The most recent estimate of council tax benefit take-up for Great Britain can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/income_analysis/jun_2010/0809_Summary.pdf

Forecasts assume the current structure of council tax benefit remains in place throughout the period shown.

Crisis Loans

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received crisis loans in each of the last three years; what the total monetary value was of such loans; and how much his Department has written off in respect of such loans. [69739]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

	Number of awards	*Amount awarded (£)*	*Amount written off (£)*
2008-09	1,964,700	167,011,300	582,000
2009-10	2,696,800	228,845,800	545,000
2010-11	2,657,100	228,344,100	537,000

Notes:
1. The social fund does not normally write off debt. However, there are some circumstance where write-off is legitimate, i.e. the claimant: has died (and there is no estate to recover from); has been deported or gone abroad (and there is no probability of returning to the country); cannot be found; has received a custodial sentence (i.e. long-term prisoners) or is bankrupt.
2. The information has been provided for the past three full years for when data are available.
3. The figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
4. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application, and for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people made more than one application or received more than one initial award.)
5. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data; for example, they do not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the social fund computer system.
6. If an applicant receives an initial award and this award is increased on first review in the same month as the initial award was made, then the Policy, Budget and Management Information System (PBMIS) does not count the initial award and the review award separately, but counts one award on the one application. However, if a first review award is made in a later month than the initial award, then PBMIS counts two awards on the one application. Similarly, if an initial or first review award is increased by the Independent Review Service, then all awards made in the same month on one application count as one award. However, if an initial award or any review award(s) on one application are made in different months, then PBMIS will count one award for each month in which an initial or review award was made. Because of this counting method, only the numbers of initial awards have been given.

Jobs (Relocation)

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 603-4W, on departmental jobs (relocation), by what means he will ensure that the Department's subcontractor for the Adams 2 contract will minimise future offshoring of jobs from North Tyneside. [68885]

Chris Grayling: The Department is in discussions with the sub-contractor for the Adams 2 contract about the best way of ensuring that UK jobs remain in the UK. The Department will provide further information on the outcome of these discussions in due time.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69263]

Chris Grayling: Procurement and purchasing in the Department for Work and Pensions and its non-departmental public bodies is conducted under a commercial strategy that has an objective to achieve the best outcome for the UK taxpayer in terms of cost, quality and business outcome. Progress against this objective has been measured since 2001 by a key performance indicator that reports the commercial function's contribution to the Department living within its spending review allocations. This indicator is based on tracking all commercial expenditure and measuring procurement value for money gains. The Department uses a procurement value for money measurement methodology initially developed by the then Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in response to the Peter Gershon Review of 1998-99. The methodology was subsequently updated by OGC to reflect new efficiency policy.

The methodology is applied in the Department by procurement category teams and results are subject to annual internal audit. It allows savings to be counted from the value added by procurement negotiations, collaboration, process efficiencies and improved contract or asset management. It also provides a distinction between procurement action that releases cash and other action that adds value but does not release cash, for example cost avoidance by resisting a suppliers bid to raise prices.

Since May 2010 the Department has worked with the Efficiency and Reform Group to incorporate savings from Crown supplier negotiations and centralised procurement into departmental procurement savings results.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69506]

Chris Grayling: In response to the parliamentary question asking the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many persons were:

(a) undertaking unpaid work experience, in his Department as of 1 July 2011

The first people commenced their unpaid work experience on 11 July.

As of 5 August there were 49 placements on unpaid work experience.

(b) unpaid interns in his Department as of the 1 July 2011

There are two pilot Whitehall internship schemes that DWP have been involved in, which are explained as follows:

Pilot 1—6th Form College Level

The pilot programme involved 60 interns and took place between 25 July-5 August 2011. DWP provided work placements for six of the 60 interns.

Pilot 2—Secondary school year 9 level

The pilot programme took place on Thursday 7 July 2011 and provided participants with an opportunity to listen to Whitehall guest speakers in the morning and an afternoon visit to Civil Service Live.

(c) in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011

There is no record of any other unpaid positions within DWP on the date in question.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he expects to announce the outcome of his review of the proposal to withdraw the mobility component of disability living allowance from people in residential care; [68855]

(2) what process his Department will follow to resolve any overlap in funding of the mobility component of the disability living allowance to people in residential care homes. [69183]

Maria Miller: Officials in the Department for Work and Pensions are considering existing evidence and gathering more to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes. This work should be completed shortly and we will then make a final decision on the way forward. We are committed to getting this right to ensure that disabled people are able to get out and about and live independently. Any changes will be rolled into the introduction of personal independence payment from April 2013.

Disability Living Allowance: St Helens

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in St Helens South and Whiston constituency were in receipt of disability living allowance including the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate mobility component in each of the last three years; [68902]

(2) how many people in St Helens South and Whiston constituency were in receipt of disability living allowance in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such recipients have been interviewed and their benefits reassessed since May 2010; and how many *(a)* were awarded a lower level of benefit, *(b)* lost all of their allowance and *(c)* were successful on appeal. [68903]

Maria Miller: The information requested on the number of people in St Helens South and Whiston constituency in receipt of disability living allowance mobility component is contained in the following table. Information regarding how many people in St Helens South and Whiston constituency have been interviewed and their DLA reassessed since May 2010, and how many *(a)* were awarded a lower level of benefit, lost all of their allowance or were successful on appeal is not routinely collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of disability living allowance recipients by mobility component in St Helens South and Whiston parliamentary constituency in each of the last three years

	Total	Higher rate mobility	Lower rate mobility	Nil rate mobility
November 2010	9,160	6,160	2,100	900
November 2009	7,690	5,240	1,700	760
November 2008	7,600	5,240	1,600	750

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Constituencies used for November 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. 'St Helens South' constituency is used for November 2009 and 2008 from the Westminster Parliament of 2005.
4. Those with 'nil rate' of mobility component are in receipt of the care component.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Disability Living Allowance: Visual Impairment

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance cannot be paid to severely visually impaired people who claim it for the first time when they are aged 65 and over. [69458]

Maria Miller: Disability living allowance is intended to focus additional help with the extra cost of disability on people who have the very considerable disadvantage of being severely disabled earlier in life and who as a consequence have less opportunity to work, earn and save compared to non-disabled people. It is normal for pensions and benefit schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives.

Where someone is in receipt of the higher rate mobility component before their 65th birthday, it can remain in payment beyond age 65 as long as the conditions of entitlement remain satisfied. A new entitlement to the higher rate mobility component, under whatever provision, cannot be established after the age of 65 as to do so would not be consistent with the principle of this benefit which is to ensure that additional help is focussed to those who become disabled earlier in life.

Employment and Support Allowance

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of applications for employment and support allowance made by residents of *(a)* Chippenham constituency and *(b)* England and Wales were rejected on the basis of a work capability assessment in 2010-11; and in respect of what proportion of such applications that decision was (i) reversed and (ii) upheld on appeal. [69839]

Chris Grayling: The data on work capability assessments are not held at a constituency level—however, it is possible to provide information for Wiltshire Unitary Authority (UA).

The data are not available for the financial year 2010-11.

Table 1 presents data for all new employment and support allowance (ESA) claims starting between October 2008 and November 2010 (the latest data available). Figures are for initial assessments only and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 1: Fit for work decisions on new ESA claims

	Fit for work	Percentage of all new ESA claims[1]
England and Wales	453,850	38
Wiltshire UA	2,260	33

[1] Includes claims that are closed before assessment and those still in progress.

Table 2 shows appeals heard on fit for work decisions for claims starting between October 2008 and May 2010. Figures are for initial assessments only and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 2: Appeals heard on fit for work decisions

	Decision in favour of appellant	Decision in favour of appellant (percentage)	DWP decision upheld	DWP decision upheld (percentage)
England and Wales	47,280	38	76,490	62
Wiltshire UA	260	46	310	54

Notes:
1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in July 2011, covers new claimants to ESA for October 2008 to November 2010 (the latest data available) and can be found here:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
3. Data on appeals include ESA claims up to the end of May 2010 (the latest month where we have sufficient volumes of appeals heard to include in the publication) where the person claiming has been assessed to be fit for work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by Tribunals Service.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. Therefore these figures should be treated as emerging findings rather than final at this stage.

Incapacity Benefits

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) in what circumstances incapacity benefit claimants are to return to their previous payments if they returned to work but need a break on health grounds; [69761]

(2) whether he has any plans to simplify the claim form to be completed by multiple sclerosis sufferers who return to work and then require a break on health grounds. [69762]

Chris Grayling: Incapacity benefit claimants who return to work are not able to return to incapacity benefit. From October 2008, employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and income support paid on incapacity grounds for new claims. Access to these old style disability benefits was closed from 31 January 2011. A person who is unable to work because of illness or disability will need to claim employment and support allowance.

There are no plans to change the employment and support allowance claim form for multiple sclerosis sufferers. The claim form is, however, kept under review. It is also possible to claim by telephoning 0800 055 6688 and an adviser can gather the necessary information thus avoiding the need for a claim form.

Industrial Health and Safety

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) with reference to the review of health and safety by Lord Young, Common Sense, Common Safety, whether the Health and Safety Executive has established a minimum standard of professional qualification for all those operating as consultants in the health and safety industry; [69365]

(2) with reference to the review of health and safety by Lord Young, Common Sense, Common Safety, whether the Health and Safety Executive has established a web-based directory of accredited health and safety consultants; [69366]

(3) what progress has been made on the Health and Safety Executive's consultations on *(a)* the operation of Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, *(b)* a draft voluntary code of practice to replace the existing Adventure Activities Licensing Authority regime and *(c)* consolidating health and safety legislation into a single set of regulations; [69367]

(4) with reference to the review of health and safety by Lord Young, Common Sense, Common Safety, whether the Health and Safety Executive has instituted periodic checklists for use by low risk voluntary organisations to check compliance against regulations; [69368]

(5) with reference to the review of health and safety by Lord Young, Common Sense, Common Safety, whether the Health and Safety Executive has published revised guidance for police and fire officers undertaking heroic acts; [69369]

(6) with reference to the review of health and safety by Lord Young, Common Sense, Common Safety, whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive has produced guidance under the Code of Practice for small and medium-sized businesses engaged in lower risk activities. [69370]

Chris Grayling: Regular updates on progress against the Common Sense, Common Safety recommendations, according to the Government body which is responsible for updating them, are published on the DWP website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety/

Jobcentre Plus: Vacancies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were advertised in Jobcentre Plus branches in Richmond Park constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [69385]

Chris Grayling: In June 2011, 269 job vacancies were advertised in Jobcentre offices in the Richmond Park constituency.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that claims for jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance are processed promptly. [69646]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus monitors the average time taken to process new claims via internal measurement indicators using an Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) and Time band clearance rates for jobseekers allowance and employment and support allowance.

As well as gathering the data we take steps to ensure it is used and cases are processed promptly. We produce a series of reports to site level that enables local managers to identify hotspots and issues where we feel the levels being achieved are impacting on the customer's claim being cleared promptly.

We charge managers with being accountable for prompt handling of claims. Senior Managers within Jobcentre Plus regularly monitor this area of performance and commission improvement work.

In addition we monitor against agreed performance levels through Performance Management Framework.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department provides to Jobcentre Plus staff on the provision of advice on jobs outside of school hours for lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [69462]

Chris Grayling: At the outset of a claim to jobseeker's allowance, guidance to Jobcentre Plus advisers is to discuss and put in place a jobseeker's agreement, which contains information about the type of work being sought, the claimant's availability for work and jobsearch activities that, if taken, offer best prospects of employment.

Guidance stresses the importance of taking into account individual personal circumstances, including child care responsibilities and agreeing appropriate restrictions on the claimant's availability for work, eg lone parents with a child aged 12 or under may restrict their availability to their child's normal school hours.

Taking into account the claimant's agreed availability for work, advisers provide information, advice and guidance on how best to identify and apply for suitable jobs, including those outside of school hours, where they are appropriate given the claimant's circumstances. The adviser can also offer ongoing personalised support which may include pre and post employment support, appropriate training, signposting to other relevant services and information about the support available to help overcome issues that may be making it harder to find and keep jobs, for example, in-work financial support and information about available child care.

For many parents to enter sustained employment they will need to source and utilise formal child care. Advisers recognise the importance of child care as a key enabler to work and therefore provide parents with the necessary support, assistance and advice to overcome this barrier to work.

Pensioners: Poverty

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* children in Leicester are living in a household with under 60% of the median income. [69678]

Steve Webb: Estimates of the number and proportion of children and pensioners living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household (rather than family) income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as Leicester. However, figures at a regional level for the East Midlands are available. Three survey years have been combined to ensure sufficient sample sizes.

Statistics covering 2007-08 to 2009-10 are the most recent available and are shown in the following table.

The targets set out in the Child Poverty Act and our broader set of income measures in the Child Poverty Strategy are calculated on a "Before Housing Costs" (BHC) basis. International comparisons are also calculated this way.

When considering the living standards of children, measures After Housing Costs (AHC) can underestimate the true standard of living as a family may make a choice to spend more on rent or mortgage to attain a higher standard of accommodation.

Conversely measures for pensioners are generally on an After Housing Costs basis. This is because pensioners are far more likely to own their homes outright and so receive value from housing, without having to pay for rent or mortgage payments out of their current income. So for assessing pensioner poverty a Before Housing Costs basis does not provide a good comparison of living standards.

Numbers and proportions of children and pensioners in low income households[1] in East Midlands Region 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Number	*Proportion (Percentage)*
(a) Pensioners (After Housing Costs)	200,000	18
(b) Children (Before Housing Costs)	200,000	23

[1] Below 60% median.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data available at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc
2. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national Insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
4. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
7. Numbers of children and pensioners have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.
8. Proportions in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

Households Below Average Income.

Personal Independence Payment

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the mobility element of the personal independence payment will be payable once claimants reach pensionable age. [69759]

Maria Miller: Individuals will be able to make a new claim for personal independence payment up to the age of 65 or state pension age, if that is higher. We recognise that individuals who develop additional needs earlier in their lives have had less opportunity to earn and save for later life. Therefore we intend in regulations to detail that individuals already in receipt of personal independence payment when they reach state pension age to continue to receive the benefit, this will include the mobility element, subject to the entitlement conditions continuing to be satisfied.

Personal Independence Payment: Visual Impairment

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many blind people in receipt of disability living allowance will be reassessed for the personal independence payment; [68830]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people on higher rate care and/or the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance who are to be reassessed for the personal independence payment by 2015-16. [69193]

Maria Miller: We will replace disability living allowance for people of working age with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need. Support through personal independence payment will be focused on those with the most need. The detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility are currently being developed and tested, informed by comments on our initial draft regulations, which we published on 9 May 2011.

At this stage, it is not possible to provide an assessment of the impact of personal independence payment on the pool of existing recipients of disability living allowance. However, we are working with disabled people and the organisations that represent them on the design and delivery of personal independence payment and the outcomes from this work will be reflected in updates to the impact assessment for this change.

Personal independence payment will be introduced for new claimants from April 2013. We will also reassess the existing disability living allowance (DLA) working-age (16-64) case load over three years beginning in 2013 and transfer individuals who are eligible for personal independence payment to the new benefit. Working-age individuals in receipt of DLA whose main disabling condition is blindness will be included in this exercise.

DLA cases in payment where the main disabling condition is blindness—February 2011

Blindness	*Number*
Total	70,400
Aged 16-64	45,800

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
3. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended for example if they are in hospital.
4. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5% sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on disabling condition as information is more complete for disabling condition on the 5% sample (Some recipients of DLA who transferred from the AA system may not have been allocated a specific disabling condition code. This problem can be corrected on the sample data but not on the WPLS data. The number of cases affected is decreasing over time).
5. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Sample data (5%)

Remploy

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that Remploy is not replacing the jobs of employees who were recently made redundant; [65479]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Remploy on the filling of posts of employees who were recently made redundant. [65480]

Maria Miller: DWP Ministers agree the funding, objectives and performance targets for the company.

The voluntary redundancy scheme was a management matter for Remploy. Remploy has assured my officials that the company is committed to honouring their legal obligations for the voluntary redundancy scheme. It has confirmed there will be no external recruitment to fill posts where employees took voluntary redundancy.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Chatham and Aylesford constituency *(a)* of each age group, *(b)* of each sex, *(c)* with each physical disability and *(d)* with each mental health diagnosis are in receipt of disability benefits; and if he will make a statement. [68401]

Maria Miller: The information requested is contained in the following tables.

Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, of physical and mental health disabilities, age and sex—February 2011

	Total with physical or mental health disabilities			*Mental health disabilities*			*Physical disabilities*		
	All	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*
All	4,880	2,300	2,580	1,530	580	950	3,350	1,720	1,630
Under 5	100	30	70	40	10	30	60	20	40
5 to under 11	330	90	240	220	50	170	110	40	70
11 to under 16	430	120	310	250	60	190	170	60	120
16-17	140	40	100	90	20	60	60	20	40
18-24	330	110	220	200	60	140	130	50	80
25-29	180	80	100	100	50	60	80	40	50
30-34	180	90	90	70	30	40	110	60	50
35-39	220	110	100	90	40	50	130	80	50
40-44	320	170	140	110	60	50	210	120	90
45-49	380	200	180	110	60	50	270	140	130
50-54	390	220	170	80	40	40	320	180	130
55-59	440	240	200	60	30	30	380	200	170
60-64	560	310	250	60	40	20	500	270	230
65-69	390	200	200	30	10	10	370	190	190

Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, of physical and mental health disabilities, age and sex—February 2011

	Total with physical or mental health disabilities			Mental health disabilities			Physical disabilities		
	All	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*
70-74	260	150	110	20	10	10	240	140	100
75-79	150	80	70	10	—	—	140	80	60
80-84	60	40	20	—	—	—	60	40	20
85-89	10	10	—	—	—	—	10	10	—
90 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Attendance allowance (AA) recipients in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, of physical and mental health disabilities, age and sex—February 201

	Total with physical or mental health disabilities			Mental health disabilities			Physical disabilities		
	All	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*	*All*	*Female*	*Male*
All	1,810	1,240	570	200	130	70	1,610	1,110	500
65-69	80	50	40	10	—	10	70	40	30
70-74	250	150	100	20	10	10	220	140	90
75-79	400	250	150	50	30	20	360	230	130
80-84	410	280	130	60	40	10	360	240	120
85-89	410	310	100	40	30	10	360	280	90
90 and over	260	200	60	20	20	10	240	190	50

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. '—' denotes nil or negligible.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
5. 'Mental health disabilities' encompass the main disabling conditions 'learning difficulties' and 'mental and behavioural disabilities'. In October 2008 much finer classifications were introduced for new DLA claimants. DWP do not report on these finer classifications as the majority of pre-2008 claims still have the "old codes" on the administrative system. A new code (cognitive disorders—other/type not known) was introduced within the general classification of "psychiatric disorders". Claimants allocated to this group are included within "mental health disorders".
6. "Physical disabilities" encompass all categories not included in "mental health disabilities", including the main disabling conditions arthritis, muscle/joint/bone disease, blindness, stroke related, epilepsy, deafness, malignant disease, chest disease, back ailments, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes mellitus, renal disorders, aids, skin disease, frailty, multiple sclerosis. The small number of cases with unknown medical code (see note 7) have been included in "physical disorders".
7. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5% sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on DLA disabling condition as information is more complete. However in this case the WPLS data have been used as some of the caseload figures produced are very small and so would have a high level of statistical variation should the sample data have been used.
8. Parliamentary constituency is based on the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, of each physical or mental health disability by gender—February 2011

		Total	*Female*	*Male*
Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency		4,880	2,300	2,580
Mental health disabilities:		1,530	580	950
	Behavioural disorder	150	30	120
	Dementia	20	10	10
	Learning difficulty	810	260	560
	Personality disorder	30	20	10
	Psychiatric disorders	—	—	—
	Psychoneurosis	210	130	80
	Psychosis	270	130	140
	Severely mentally impaired	30	10	20
Physical disabilities:		3,350	1,720	1,630
	AIDS	10	—	10
	Alcohol and drug abuse	30	10	20
	Arthritis	670	440	230
	Asthma	30	20	10
	Back pain—not specified	250	130	120
	Blindness	110	50	50
	Blood disorders	10	10	—
	Bowel and stomach disease	30	20	10
	Cerebrovascular disease	140	70	70

Disability living allowance (DLA) recipients in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, of each physical or mental health disability by gender—February 2011

		Total	*Female*	*Male*
	Chest disease	140	50	80
	Chronic fatigue syndrome	60	60	10
	Cystic fibrosis	10	—	—
	Deafness	90	40	50
	Diabetes mellitus	100	40	50
	Disease of the muscles, bones or joints	300	170	130
	Double amputee	—	—	—
	Epilepsy	130	60	70
	Frailty	—	—	—
	Haemodialysis	—	—	—
	Haemophilia	10	—	10
	Heart disease	140	40	100
	Hyperkinetic syndrome	190	30	160
	Infectious disease	—	—	—
	Inflammatory bowel disease	10	10	—
	Major trauma other than traumatic paraplegia	30	10	20
	Malignant disease	130	70	60
	Metabolic disease	30	20	10
	Motor neurone disease	—	—	—
	Multi system disorders	10	10	—
	Multiple sclerosis	120	80	40
	Neurological disease	200	100	100
	Other unspecified mainly terminally ill	10	—	—
	Parkinson's disease	20	10	10
	Peripheral vascular disease	20	10	10
	Renal disorders	20	10	10
	Skin disease	20	10	10
	Spondylosis	110	60	50
	Total parenteral nutrition	—	—	—
	Trauma to limbs	80	30	50
	Traumatic paraplegia/ tetraplegia	10	—	10
	Unknown	100	60	40

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Attendance allowance (AA) recipients in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, of each physical or mental health disabilities, by gender, February 2011

		Total	*Female*	*Male*
Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency		1,810	1,240	570
Mental health disabilities:		200	130	70
	Dementia	170	110	50
	Learning difficulty	10	—	—
	Psychiatric disorders	—	—	—
	Psychoneurosis	10	10	—
	Psychosis	10	10	—
Physical disabilities:		1,610	1,110	500
	Arthritis	580	460	120
	Asthma	20	10	—
	Back pain—not specified	30	20	10
	Blindness	80	60	20
	Blood disorders	—	—	—
	Bowel and stomach disease	—	—	—
	Cerebrovascular disease	110	50	60
	Chest disease	90	40	50
	Chronic fatigue syndrome	—	—	—
	Deafness	10	—	—
	Diabetes mellitus	40	30	10
	Disease of the muscles, bones or joints	110	80	30
	Epilepsy	—	—	—
	Frailty	150	110	40
	Haemodialysis	—	—	—
	Heart disease	130	80	50
	Inflammatory bowel disease	10	—	—
	Major trauma other than traumatic paraplegia	—	—	—
	Malignant disease	50	30	20
	Metabolic disease	—	—	—
	Multi system disorders	—	—	—
	Multiple sclerosis	10	—	—
	Neurological disease	20	10	10
	Other unspecified mainly terminally ill	40	30	
	Parkinson's disease	50	20	30
	Peripheral vascular disease	10	—	10
	Renal disorders	10	10	—
	Skin disease	—	—	—
	Spondylosis	20	10	—
	Trauma to limbs	10	10	—

Attendance allowance (AA) recipients in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency by main disabling condition, of each physical or mental health disabilities, by gender, February 2011

		Total	Female	Male
	Unknown	—	—	—

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. '—' denotes nil or negligible.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
5. 'Mental health disabilities' encompass the main disabling conditions 'learning difficulties' and 'mental and behavioural disabilities'. In October 2008 much finer classifications were introduced for new DLA claimants. DWP do not report on these finer classifications as the majority of pre-2008 claims still have the "old codes" on the administrative system. A new code (cognitive disorders—other/ type not known) was introduced within the general classification of "psychiatric disorders". Claimants allocated to this group are included within "mental health disorders".
6. "Physical disabilities" encompass all categories not included in "mental health disabilities", including the main disabling conditions arthritis, muscle/joint/bone disease, blindness, stroke related, epilepsy, deafness, malignant disease, chest disease, back ailments, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes mellitus, renal disorders, aids, skin disease, frailty, multiple sclerosis. The small number of cases with unknown medical code (see note 7) have been included in "physical disabilities".
7. The preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. However, the 5% sample data are generally the preferred source for analysis on DLA disabling condition as information is more complete. However in this case the WPLS data has been used as some of the caseload figures produced are very small and so would have a high level of statistical variation should the sample data have been used.
8. Parliamentary constituency is based on the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Universal Credit

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain), *Official Report*, column 478, on universal credit: transitional payments, what estimate he has made of the cost of transitional protection for recipients of the childcare element of working tax credits who continue to qualify for childcare support under the universal credit in each of the first five years. [68035]

Chris Grayling: The Government have made a commitment that there will be no cash losers purely as a result of the move to universal credit. At the point of change a comparison will be made between current amount received in tax credits and/or benefits and the household entitlement under universal credit. If the universal credit entitlement is less, and no other circumstances have changed, a cash amount will be paid in order to make up the difference. Details of this protection will be available when policy details have been finalised but we would expect future increases in universal credit entitlement to reduce the need for transitional protection.

Work Capability Assessments

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to assist people with mental and behavioural disorders into work. [69335]

Chris Grayling: New measures introduced in April 2011 allow Jobcentre Plus to offer more flexible support to people with mental and behavioural difficulties, ensuring provision is tailored to personal and local labour market needs.

This includes advice and support about maintaining well-being and managing health in preparation for a return to work

The Work programme is a cross-benefit programme that ensures providers are free to innovate and design support that addresses the needs of individuals. Work programme providers are paid more to support harder to help groups into sustained employment, including those claiming employment support allowance.

In addition, disabled people may be able to access a range of specialist employment provision including Work Choice; Access to Work; Remploy Employment Services and Enterprise Businesses; and Residential Training.

Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Advisers offer help with finding and retaining employment. They can refer individuals to specialist programmes including Residential Training and Work Choice and may also use the professional expertise of Work Psychologists specialising in working with disabled people. They can advocate with employers on the individual's behalf and help employers to explore job solutions such as the restructuring of a job's tasks or the environment, or the provision of, or change to equipment.

Jobcentre Plus Mental Health and Well-being Partnership Managers work with mental health services to ensure an awareness of the services available locally, and to develop the knowledge and confidence of Jobcentre Plus advisers. Advisers also have access to resources such as the mental health adviser toolkit, and the Hidden Impairments toolkit, developed in conjunction with professional experts, charitable organisations and service users.

As part of the Department for Work and Pensions Health and Work programme, occupational health advice services are available across Great Britain to employers in small businesses who need to support an individual employee to remain in or return to work, and to GPs who require support on patient-specific or general occupational health issues. Also, Fit for Work Services are being piloted across Great Britain to ensure individuals can access case-managed, multidisciplinary support in the early stages of sickness absence to help them back to work as soon as possible and ensure they remain in work.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists, supported by the Department for Work and Pensions, has produced an online resource providing information and guidance about returning to work after a period of mental ill health to provide support to workers, employers, clinicians, and carers.

As part of the Department of Health (DH) Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, which will be rolled-out across England by March 2015, employment support coordination ensures employment and advice support providers and psychological therapy services work together to help people remain in or return to work when issues arise. In Scotland, support for those with mental health conditions is delivered through the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives, which provides training to employers on developing Mentally Healthy Workplaces. In Wales, the Mental Health in Primary Care Network works to improve awareness of the importance of work to health, making specific reference to mental health and well-being.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67557]

Robert Neill: The Department has had no subscriptions to Sky TV.

Council Tax

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in council tax in England was in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2010-11. [69161]

Robert Neill: The change in the average band D council tax in England in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2010-11 over the previous year's figure was 4.2%, 3.9% and 1.8% respectively.

This information is available in table 1 of the statistical release "Council tax levels set by local authorities in England—2011-12" that is published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/rates/

This information is collected from the Budget Requirement forms that are completed by all billing and precepting authorities in England.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation on localising support for council tax in England, August 2011, paragraph 11.8, when he plans to publish the technical consultation on the level of grant allocated to local authorities for their local council tax support schemes. [69341]

Robert Neill: A separate detailed technical consultation on the specific factors and indicators which should determine the level of grant allocated to a particular authority will take place after the current consultation has closed.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation on localising support for council tax in England, August 2011, paragraph 4.4, how the amount of money given to each local authority to fund local council tax support schemes will be calculated in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* subsequent years. [69345]

Robert Neill: The Government are currently consulting on the principles for calculating the grant to be given to each local authority to fund local council tax support schemes. A separate detailed technical consultation will subsequently be held on the specific factors and indicators which should determine the level of grant allocated to a particular authority.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation on localising support for council tax in England, August 2011, what proportion of recipients of council tax benefit were of *(a)* working age and *(b)* pension age in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area on the most recent date for which figures are available. [69346]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that provides the proportion of council tax benefit claimants that were of *(a)* working age and *(b)* pension age, by each local authority in England, based on the May 2011 Department for Work and Pensions Single Housing Benefit Extract. England figures show that 62.5% of claimants are of working age, the remaining 37.5% are of pension age.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation on localising support for council tax in England, August 2011, whether he plans to prepare and publish an impact assessment on the localisation of council tax benefit. [69347]

Robert Neill: An impact assessment will be published alongside draft legislation providing for the localisation of council tax support in England.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much council tax revenue was collected by each local authority in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much council tax revenue net of council tax benefit was collected by each local authority in England in that period. [69563]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives the following information for each local authority in England:

Total receipts of 2010-11 council tax collected in 2010-11.

Council tax benefit transferred to Collection Fund in 2010-11.

Total 2010-11 council tax revenue collected in 2010-11 (in year receipts plus council tax benefit transferred to the collection fund).

Council Tax: Green Deal Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for a one-month council tax payment holiday for households that are participating in the Green Deal. [69239]

Robert Neill: Local authorities have the discretion provided by section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to grant council tax discounts as they see fit.

Council Tax: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Halifax constituency have been moved into an *(a)* higher and (b) lower council tax band since May 2010; and what the average (i) increase and (ii) decrease was in the last financial year. [69470]

Robert Neill: As at 30 June 2011 there were 45,274 domestic properties in the Halifax constituency and in the period from 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2011 there were (i) 42 properties that moved into a higher council tax band and (ii) 234 properties which moved into a lower council tax band. Official statistics are published by Valuation Office Agency on an annual or quarterly basis only.

In the financial year 2010-11 the modal (average) increase was from band B to C and the modal decrease was from band B to A.

Advertising

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* newspaper advertising in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms between June 2007 and May 2010; and what the total cost to the public purse was. [68376]

Robert Neill: The Department purchases its advertising space through the Central Office of Information. Their figures, excluding VAT and recorded on a financial year basis, are as follows:

£

	TV advertising	*Radio advertising*	*Press advertising*	*Total*
Nominal terms				
2007-08	1,188,232	388,369	3,116,567	4,693,168
2008-09	1,989,840	1,438,538	2,898,805	6,327,183
2009-10	1,677,935	847,463	1,860,579	4,385,977
Real terms[1]				
2007-08	1,240,992	405,613	3,254,949	4,901,555
2008-09	2,022,239	1,461,961	2,946,004	6,430,204
2009-10	1,677,935	847,463	1,860,579	4,385,977

[1] Using GDP deflators as published 28 June 2011 by HM Treasury, using 2009-10 as the base year.

The figures for press advertising include magazines as well as newspapers, due to the mechanism Central Office of Information employ to record financial data.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67924]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 288-89W; this was business class given the distance travelled. The Secretary of State has undertaken no other flights on official business.

Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66578]

Robert Neill: In the last 12 months the following departmental items have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen.

Item	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Replacement value (£)*
Laptop	1	10	16,500
BlackBerry	2	8	700
Camera	0	1	250
Laptop log-on key	1	1	180
BlackBerry charger	0	2	40

The laptops were encrypted. The unit cost of the laptops incorporate a series of encryption and security measures, and associated licence, set-up and support costs.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67248]

Robert Neill: The Department has published all contracts with a value of greater than £20,000 on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. This is 50% of the total number of contracts with a value of greater than £10,000. The Department is currently in the process of updating the website with all such contracts.

Rail Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* first class and *(b)* all train travel by (i) Ministers, (ii) staff and (iii) special advisers in his Department between June 2007 and May 2010. [68341]

Robert Neill: Information on the cost of rail travel was not held centrally before April 2009 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 2009-10 the Department spent £199,516 on first class rail travel and £689,348 on standard rail travel and in April and May 2010 the Department spent £18,372 on first class rail travel and £79,069 on standard rail travel.

The breakdown between Ministers, special advisers and staff could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Travel Costs

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in his Department are provided with travel cards funded by his Department. [68901]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not have any civil servants provided with travel cards funded directly by the Department. However, the Department does allow staff to take out a loan for season ticket costs and pay it back over a maximum period of 12 months. As of July 2011, there were a total of 488 civil servants making repayments on a season ticket loan.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69510]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government had *(a)* no people undertaking work experience, *(b)* no unpaid interns, and *(c)* no other persons in unpaid positions working in the Department as of 1 July 2011, however the Department did have three Youth Council volunteers working in the Department, and all three of them finished on 30 June 2011. Additionally, six people joined the Department in July for two weeks work experience, however all of them started after 1 July 2011.

Disability Aids

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health about the funding of communication aids and assistive technology specifically for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [69398]

Andrew Stunell: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from other Departments to discuss a range of matters.

It is the responsibility of local social care services to determine who is responsible for the provision and repair of communication aids and assistive technology.

The Vision on Adult Social Care, Capable Communities and Active Citizens is clear that "councils should commission a full range of appropriate preventative and early intervention services such as re-ablement and telecare, working in partnership with the NHS, housing authorities and others".

Generally, councils may supply equipment costing up to £1,000 free of charge but in some circumstances may make direct payments to purchase equipment or adaptations themselves.

DCLG provides funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant, a mandatory entitlement administered by local housing authorities. It helps to fund the provision of adaptations that enable disabled people to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their homes. It can be used to adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use.

Disabled Facilities Grant

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the review of the effectiveness of administration of the disabled facilities grant will be concluded. [69547]

Andrew Stunell: There is currently no review into the effectiveness of administration of the disabled facilities grant. However, the recently published report by the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support recommends reviewing the operation and administration of the disabled facilities grant. The Government welcome this report and will be reviewing the recommendations with the care sector over the autumn. Following this engagement, we will publish a White Paper on social care reform in the spring next year, as well as a progress report on funding reform.

Fire Services

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal advice he received on the abolition of the regional fire control centres. [68875]

Robert Neill: I would refer my hon. Friend to the National Audit Office report of 1 July 2011, HC 1272, on the Failure of the FiReControl project which sets out the specialist commercial legal advice received.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process his Department followed in making decisions on the reconfiguration of regional fire control centres. [69034]

Robert Neill: Following the termination of the FiReControl project we consulted the fire and rescue community on the future of control services and, at the same time, invited Fire and Rescue Services to discuss with us how they might use the buildings. The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority took on the lease for the building in London in March this year and are planning to move their control room later this year. We are in discussion with a number of Fire and Rescue Authorities who are interested in taking on other buildings; where there is no interest the buildings are being marketed more widely, including to other emergency services. This approach is building improved control room resilience through local solutions, not imposing a solution from central Government.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Local Government Ombudsman using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [68891]

Robert Neill: A table providing a breakdown of expenditure by the Local Government Ombudsman using Government Procurement Cards for 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been placed in the Library of the House. This includes *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction details. Each transaction has an expenditure type which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased.

The data cover the periods 1 December 2008 when the Local Government Ombudsman started using Government Procurement cards to 31 March 2009; and 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Infrastructure Planning Commission using the Government Procurement Card since its establishment. [68893]

Robert Neill: A table detailing the available information on expenditure incurred by the Infrastructure Planning Commission through use of the Government Procurement Card since its inception on 1 October 2009 through to 22 July 2011 has been placed in the Library of the House.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [68894]

Robert Neill: The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation does not use the Government Procurement Card.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Valuation Tribunal Service using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [68896]

Grant Shapps: Purchases using the Government Procurement Card for the Valuation Tribunal Service covering the financial years of 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are listed in an Excel spreadsheet which has been placed in the Library of the House.

The figures in brackets show the number of persons involved in those particular expenditures.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Official Hospitality

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* four star, *(b)* five star and *(c)* other hotel accommodation for (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in his Department between June 2007 and May 2010. [68373]

Robert Neill: Information on hotel expenditure is not held centrally prior to April 2009 and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. In the financial year 2009-10 the Department spent £498,471 on hotel accommodation and in April and May 2010 the Department spent £56,662 on hotel accommodation.

Unfortunately this cannot be broken down by hotel rating. The breakdown between Ministers, special advisers and staff could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

As part of my transparency initiative, spending over £500 since 2008-09 is available for scrutiny on my Department's website.

Housing: Licensing

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many selective licensing areas were in existence in the latest period for which figures are available; what their *(a)* name, *(b)* location, *(c)* relevant local authority and *(d)* date of establishment is in each such case; how many houses are included in each such area; and what proportion of those houses are owned by private landlords. [69466]

Andrew Stunell: 19 selective licensing designations in 14 local authority areas were granted approval by the Department before the general consent for selective licensing schemes was introduced on 1 April 2010. These were as follows:

Local authority	*Designation*	*Commencement*
Salford City Council	Seedley and Langworthy	25 May 2007
	Broughton Ward	2 November 2009
Middlesbrough Council	Gresham & Middlehaven ward	5 June 2007
Manchester City Council	Moston	3 August 2007
	Bradford ward	3 August 2007
	Gorton Ward	2 November 2007
Gateshead Council	Sunderland road	25 September 2007
	Chopwell	11 January 2010
Sedgefield Council	Dean Bank & Chilton West	7 February 2008
Burnley Council	Trinity Ward	22 October 2008
Bolton Council	Tonge with the Haulgh ward	10 November 2008
Blackburn Council	Infirmary area	17 February 2009
	Central Darwen	1 June 2009
Leeds City Council	East End/Cross Green	1 October 2009
Easington Council	Wembley	10 February 2009

Local authority	*Designation*	*Commencement*
Hartlepool Council	One designation including Burn Valley, Dyke House, Foggy Furze, Grange and Stranton wards	1 May 2009
LB of Newham	Little Ilford	1 March 2010
Sunderland City Council	Hendon	1 July 2010
Hyndburn Council	Accrington & Church	n/a

Information on the number of properties within each designation, and the proportion of these that are privately rented, is held by each individual local authority.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which applications by local authorities for selective licensing areas have been rejected since 2006; and what the reasons were in each such case. [69467]

Andrew Stunell: Prior to the general consent for selective licensing schemes that came into force on 1 April 2010, no local authority applications for selective licensing schemes were rejected by the Department.

Land

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has provided to local authorities on the procedures for disposing of surplus land. [69452]

Robert Neill: Guidance on the disposal of local authority land under the Local Government Act 1972 is given in ODPM Circular 06/2003, the "General Disposal Consent (England) 2003, disposal of land for less than best consideration that can reasonably be obtained":

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circularlocalgovernment

Guidance on the disposal of local authority land held under Housing Acts is given in the "General Housing Consents 2005", (for section 32 of the Housing Act 1985):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/generalhousing?view=Standard

and in the "General Consents 2010", (for section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/consentsprivatelets?view=Standard

The following consultation was launched on 25 August seeking views on simplifying the legislation that governs the disposal of council housing assets and how the receipts should be used:

http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/consultations/1972625

Local Government Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 662-64, on local government finance, what modelling his Department has carried out on the likely change to each local authority budget that will occur in each of the next five years under his proposed scheme for localisation of business rates. [69001]

Robert Neill: The impact of the Government's proposals to allow local retention of business rates will depend on a range of factors, including future business rates growth at the local level, the behavioural response to the changes, and the design of the scheme that is introduced. The Government have sought views on their proposals and, on 19 August, published an interactive calculator that enables councils to make estimates of the main variables for their area, and to see the comparative impact of different approaches to scheme design. This will help to inform their responses to the consultation, as well as future decisions by the Government.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to his contribution following the oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 666W, on local government finance, what the evidential basis is for his statement that Doncaster would do better under his proposed scheme for localisation of business rates than it had under the existing funding system for the last five years; [69002]

(2) pursuant to his contribution following the oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 670W, on local government finance, what the evidential basis is for the statement that Liverpool would benefit the most under his proposed scheme for localisation of business rates. [69003]

Robert Neill: The average growth in business rates per billing authority in England between 2005-06 and 2009-10 was 5%. For Liverpool, average growth over that period was 8.2%. In the same period, growth in Doncaster was 6%. Subsequent to the oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 662-677, further information on the outturn amount of national non-domestic rates collected by local authorities and the associated amount of relief they granted has been published and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/outturn/

Local Government: Debts

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the annual debt interest paid by each local authority in England in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [69562]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives information on interest payable and similar charges for each local authority in England for 2009-10 (final outturn), 2010-11 (provisional outturn) and 2011-12 (budget estimates).

Mass Media

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month between June 2007 and May 2010. [68365]

Robert Neill: The Department did not conduct, or commit funds to, any formal ongoing analysis or evaluation of national media coverage during this period.

The Department did have a contract throughout this period with an external supplier to provide a daily national press cuttings service.

Costs for this service totalled £312,759.66 for the period from April 2008 to May 2010, broken down as:

	£
April 2008 to March 2009	165,617.50
April 2009 to March 2010	131,315.15
April 2010 to May 2010	15,827.01

Data for the preceding period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 178W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Robert Halfon) on the steps the new administration have taken to reduce spending in this area.

Metal: Theft

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the cost of metal theft to local authorities in each of the last six years. [69810]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

Minister for Cities

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what ministerial responsibilities the Minister for Cities has in relation to London. [69536]

Greg Clark: As Minister for Cities I will champion the economic, social and environmental role of cities including London and support them in seizing the opportunities to create growth and prosperity across the country. London is clearly our largest city in terms of its population and its economy—but it also has different issues and a very different governance settlement from other cities. Therefore I will initially focus on the core cities and their surrounding areas. The core cities represent the eight largest cities outside of London (based on the population of the Primary Urban Area): Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, and Sheffield.

Non-domestic Rates

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will estimate the likely difference in business rates revenues between local authorities with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest funding growth one year after the implementation of his proposed changes to local business rates; [68050]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of revenue for *(a)* Surrey county council, *(b)* Bury council and *(c)* Barnsley council as a result of his proposed changes to local business rates. [68051]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State set out proposals to allow local retention of business rates in his oral statement to the House on 18 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 662-677. The Government's proposals will ensure a stable starting point, so that no local authority will be worse off as a result of its business rates base at the outset of the new system.

The impact of the Government's proposals will depend on a range of factors, including future business rates growth at the local level, the behavioural response to the changes, and the final design of the scheme following consultation. The Government have sought views on their proposals and, on 19 August, published eight technical papers which provide further details on the proposals, together with an interactive calculator. The calculator enables users to explore the possible effects of certain scheme design options based upon their own assumptions about local circumstances.

The proposals incorporate a range of protections to ensure councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his proposed changes to local business rates on equality of financial resources between local authorities. [68053]

Robert Neill: The Government published their proposals for business rate retention in "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention" on 18 July 2011. This paper was supplemented by the publication on 19 August 2011 of a set of technical papers which provide more detail on the proposals.

The proposed system of tariffs and top ups will ensure a stable starting point, so that no council is worse off as a result of its business rates base at the outset of the scheme. From that point on, councils will keep a share of business rates increases, providing a strong incentive for them to promote growth. The consultation paper proposes a range of protections to ensure that councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain.

At the same time as publishing the technical papers, the Government also made available an interactive calculator which enables users to explore the principal features of the proposed business rates retention scheme by entering their own inputs and varying components.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has consulted poorer local authorities on his proposed changes to local business rates; and what the outcome was of any such consultation. [68054]

Robert Neill: In developing proposals for changes to business rates, the Local Government Resource Review engaged with a number of key partners, including local government representative bodies such as the Local Government Association, the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA), and London councils.

The proposals are set out in the consultation document "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention" which was published on 18 July 2011, and in eight technical papers published, along with an interactive calculator, on 19 August 2011. The consultation seeks views from across local government and the business community by 24 October.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the time which will be required to implement his proposed changes to local business rates in order to ensure that the model delivered is sustainable. [68055]

Robert Neill: The Government published proposals for business rate retention in: "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention" on 18 July 2011. Subject to the responses to that consultation, the Government intend to bring forward legislation later in this Session with a view to introducing business rates retention from April 2013.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government *(a)* how many and what types of local businesses and *(b)* which local authorities he has consulted on his proposed changes to local business rates. [68056]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) on 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1322W.

The Government published their proposals for business rate retention in: "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention" on 18 July, seeking views by 24 October. We are keen to encourage responses from all interested parties, including local government and the business community.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how he plans to maintain the ability of poorer local authorities to deliver services according to needs when implementing his proposed changes to business rates. [68058]

Robert Neill: The Government published proposals for business rate retention: "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention" on 18 July 2011, seeking responses by 24 October 2011.

The proposed system of tariffs and top ups will ensure a stable starting point, so that no council is worse off as a result of its business rates base at the outset of the scheme. From that point on, councils will keep a share of business rates increases, providing a strong incentive for them to promote growth. The consultation paper proposes a range of protections to ensure that councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential change in the total resources available to local authorities resulting from his proposed changes to local business rates. [68239]

Robert Neill: The total resource available to local authorities was set out in the spending review 2011-12 and is set for four years until 2014-15. The Government do not propose any change to these resources during the remainder of the spending review period. If, following the introduction of the scheme, business rate growth is achieved above forecast levels, the benefit of this will sit with local authorities.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to his Department's consultation on proposals for business rates retention, July 2011, paragraph 3.25, what share of disproportionate financial gains would be recouped by his Department under his proposals; [69342]

(2) with reference to his Department's consultation on proposals for business rates retention, July 2011, paragraph 3.25, what definition his Department plans to use of disproportionate financial gains. [69343]

Robert Neill: As set out in the consultation paper "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention", published on 18 July, the Government propose to collect a levy recouping a share of disproportionate benefit and use the proceeds to fund a safety net to help manage large, unforeseen negative volatility in individual authorities' budgets.

The main consultation paper seeks views on a number of options for setting the levy, which are discussed in further detail in "Technical Paper 5: Tariffs, Top-up and Levy Options", published on 19 August and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/lgresourcereview/

The Government are seeking responses by 24 October.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation on proposals for business rates retention, July 2011, paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10, how business rates revenues collected through the central list will be distributed. [69344]

Robert Neill: Business rates revenues from the central list will form part of the forecast national business rates. The Government set out details of their proposals, including how they propose to derive individual authorities' business rates baselines from the forecast national business rates, in a series of Technical Papers published on 19 August 2011.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered changing the non-domestic rating legislation to ensure that large retrospective rate demands cannot be levied on newly-rated companies. [69454]

Robert Neill: The Government published a consultation paper on business rates retention on 18 July 2011 and a further eight technical papers, which provide more details of the Government's proposals, on 19 August.

"Technical Paper 6: Volatility", seeks views on the issue of backdated rating assessments in the context of the Government's proposals for change. The papers can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/
localgovernment/resourcereviewbusinessrates

and the consultation remains open until 24 October 2011.

Non-domestic Rates: Sunderland

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Sunderland has *(a)* contributed to and *(b)* drawn from the national non-domestic rating pool in the last five financial years. [67104]

Robert Neill: The following table gives details of how much Sunderland city council has *(a)* contributed to and *(b)* received from the national non-domestic rating pool in the period 2006-07 to 2010-11.

£ million

	Non-domestic rates paid into the pool	*Redistributed non-domestic rates received*
2006-07	65.8	116.6
2007-08	70.2	121.0
2008-09	72.8	132.9
2009-10	76.1	125.6
2010-11	73.1	137.5

The data in respect of non-domestic rates paid into the pool are taken from the annual audited national non-domestic rates (NNDR3) returns submitted by Sunderland city council.

The data in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates received by Sunderland city council are taken from the annual local government finance settlement.

On 18 July, the Government published proposals to allow the local retention of business rates. The Government's proposals will ensure a stable starting point, so that no local authority will be worse off as a result of its business rates base at the outset of the new system. The consultation paper proposes a range of protections to ensure that councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain.

There is no basis for the suggestion made by the hon. Member in her local media that Sunderland city council "will lose up to £58 million". That is simply wrong.

Office of Government Commerce

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities requiring them to implement the Office of Government Commerce Procurement Policy Note - Information Note 09/09. [69338]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not issued guidance to local authorities requiring them to implement the Office of Government Commerce Procurement Policy Note - Information Note 09/09.

Such Policy Procurement Notices are sent out widely throughout the public sector by Cabinet Office, including to local authorities.

National Gas Grid

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress he has made in reforming the planning system to support the injection of biomethane into the national gas grid. [69236]

Robert Neill: The Government are reforming the planning system to ensure that the sustainable development needed to support economic growth is able to proceed as easily as possible. This embraces a range of measures which should make it easier to obtain planning permission for appropriately sited anaerobic digestion plants.

Anaerobic digestion plants are a maximum 8 MW, so these are all local planning decisions governed by the planning framework and guidance. We consider that local authorities are best placed to manage the waste management needs for their area; and to best deliver workable renewable energy. Through our proposals for reforming the planning system we are creating the right framework to facilitate a significant increase in the amount of energy from waste through anaerobic digestion. Our reforms sit alongside the Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan, published by DEFRA in June 2011, where the Government are making £10 million available to promote use of anaerobic digestion (food waste).

DCLG facilitate a forum/hold regular meetings to discuss and understand planning reform as they affect anaerobic digestion. Following the recent publication of the draft National Planning Policy Framework, work is ongoing to consider links between the planning system and its support for injection of biomethane into the national gas grid.

Private Rented Housing

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to stimulate investment by third-party insurance and pension funds in the private rented housing sector; and if he will make a statement. [69731]

Andrew Stunell: The changes to Stamp Duty Land Tax on bulk purchases which the Government announced in the 2011 Budget should help larger-scale investors, including landlords and property management companies, to take on larger portfolios. The commitment to look again at the rules on Real Estate Investment Trusts in time for next year's Budget should also offer encouragement to investors in the sector.

More broadly, the Government are committed to supporting homeownership but we also recognise that a strong private rental sector is required to provide a flexible alternative. We want to ensure the housing market is stable and responds to demand.

Achieving this depends above all on the return to economic and financial stability which the Government are seeking to achieve through debt reduction and their commitment to abolish the structural deficit. This will help to keep interest rates low, improve credit availability and free up lending.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1235W, on Travellers: caravan sites, what consideration his Department gave to including a reference to the proposed duty to co-operate in the main body of the Planning for Traveller Sites consultation document of 13 April 2011. [67983]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* The consultation on the Government's draft planning policy for traveller sites ended on 3 August. The Government are considering the responses and intend to publish their new policy as soon as possible.

The Government are consulting on their draft 'National Planning Policy Framework' until 17 October. Planning policy on traveller sites will eventually be incorporated into the framework.

We are introducing a duty to cooperate through the Localism Bill. This will require local councils, county councils and other public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in the planning process. As part of the Government's consultation on the draft Framework, we welcome views from Members on whether the policies for planning strategically across local boundaries, including the duty to co-operate, provide a clear framework and enough flexibility for councils and other bodies to work together effectively.

Warwickshire County Council

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department provided to Warwickshire county council in each year since 2005. [69498]

Robert Neill: The total grant funding allocated by the Department of Communities and Local Government to Warwickshire county council is as follows:

Warwickshire

	£000
2005-06	333,071
2006-07	95,032
2007-08	97,093
2008-09	129,340
2009-10	126,157
2010-11	130,388

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of:

formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates)

specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services) (only includes grants from this Department)

specific grants outside Aggregate External Finance (only includes grants from this Department)

Area Based Grant (from 2008-09), and

'other grants' provided by all Government Departments.

These figures are taken from revenue outturn forms provided by authorities after the end of a financial year. Figures for formula grant, Area Based Grant and other grants are aggregated grants for all Government Departments. The 2010-11 figures are currently provisional and could be subject to change. Finalised 2010-11 figures will be released in November 2011.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and changes to funding methodology (in particular, the 2005-06 figure includes education funding, which was removed from formula grant in later years).

Written Questions: Government Responses

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the Questions 67689 and 67706, on the Planning Inspectorate, tabled on 14 July 2011 for answer on 19 July 2011. [68796]

Robert Neill: Question 67706 was answered on 20 July 2011. Question 67689 was answered on 5 September 2011.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress he has made in reforming the regulatory framework to support the injection of biomethane into the national gas grid. [69244]

Charles Hendry: In March this year we announced details of the Renewable Heat Incentive, including long term tariff support for bio-methane connecting to the gas network. In the same month Ofgem published its decision on the strategy for the next transmission and gas distribution price controls RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs).

This contained a number of measures to support biomethane injection into the gas grid:

1. incentives in the financial framework for gas network companies to ensure that they do not incur additional costs for connecting biomethane to the grid, this will ensure network companies do not have a disincentive to connecting biomethane;

2. obligations on the network companies to develop information provisions for connectees on how biomethane producers can connect to the grid. This is in the process of being drafted into the Gas Transporter licence;

3. a requirement that gas networks companies need to introduce voluntary standards of service for biomethane customers connecting to the grid;

4. £140 million under the Network Innovation Competition to trial new technologies like biomethane on the grid, plus a further 0.5 to 1% of each GDN's allowed revenue is allocated to innovation funding.

Further information can be found in Ofgem's 27 July factsheet on biomethane:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/FactSheets/Documents1/biomethanearenewablegassourceFS.pdf

My officials are working with National Grid (NG) and Ofgem to determine whether propane should be added to biomethane before injection into the grid, with a view to finding the most supportive solution for biomethane producers consistent with maintaining necessary gas quality standards.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the merits of a gas licence exemption for onshore gas production for the purposes of making it easier to inject biomethane from an anaerobic digestion plant into the gas grid. [69245]

Charles Hendry: The Government are working with range of delivery partners to consider whether it is appropriate to amend regulations which currently apply to biogas injection from anaerobic digestion plant, with the purpose of making injection easier.

In addition the Health and Safety Executive is working with network companies to assess whether the maximum permissible levels of oxygen and contaminant matter in grid gas can be safely increased to reduce the costs of cleaning biogas for injection.

DECC is considering the case for further reducing potential regulatory burdens by providing a gas licence exemption for those, including AD plants, who produce gas onshore and expects to publish a consultation in due course.

British Coal Utilisation Research Association

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which public authority holds the company, operational and insurance records of the British Coal Utilisation Research Association, a subsidiary of the British Coal Corporation; and where these records are now located. [69041]

Charles Hendry: The British Coal Utilisation Research Association (BCURA) became a wholly owned subsidiary of British Coal in 1969. British Coal was a very large company with records spread over numerous sites. Over the course of time many of those records were lost or destroyed. Those that remain that are under the Department's control, including the remaining BCURA records relating to the period while it was in British Coal ownership, are held by the Departments records management contractor, Iron Mountain, at their facility in Stafford.

As for the period after BCURA left the ownership of British Coal, BCURA are responsible for those records and the question should be directed to BCURA for that period and for any documents transferred to them at that time. However we are also aware that the Coal Research Establishment (CRE) deposited a number of records outside the British Coal archive system. We do not know the nature and extent of those deposits. One potential source of further enquiries is with the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. A review of that Institute's annual report for 2008-09 indicates that at least some CRE/BCURA records/libraries are held by them. The National Archives also hold some documents related to BCURA.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to receive notification of whether his plans for an Emissions Performance Standard comply with EU law. [69850]

Gregory Barker: We will consider the compatibility of the EPS with EU law as we develop the proposals and will discuss them with the Commission as appropriate. There is no requirement to obtain clearance from the Commission before proceeding with the EPS.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the level at which the Emissions Performance Standard will be set will vary across different parts of the UK. [69877]

Gregory Barker: The Government's position is that the framework of the Emissions Performance Standard regime should, as far as possible, cover the whole of the UK and is working closely with the Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to achieve this in a way which takes appropriate account of their policy preferences, existing market arrangements and respective devolution settlements.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish details of the Emissions Performance Standards specific exemptions for plant *(a)* forming part of the UK's Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Demonstration Programme and *(b)* benefiting from European funding for commercial-scale CCS projects. [69883]

Charles Hendry: The Government confirmed in the Electricity Market Reform White Paper published on 12 July 2011 that exemptions to the EPS will apply to plant forming part of the UK Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Demonstration Programme, or benefiting from European funding for commercial scale CCS. We are considering the options on how to implement an exemption and will be discussing the detailed design with stakeholders over the coming months to help us prepare for legislation.

Climate Change: Finance

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the disbursement of climate finance due to be complete by April 2015 has been disbursed to date; and how much such funding has been disbursed. [68744]

Gregory Barker: As of November 2010, the UK Government have approved a total of £568 million in 2010-11 towards their commitment of £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over 2010-12. This is over one third of our total and we are on track to meet our commitment.

An updated figure will be provided on the Fast Start finance website at:

http://www.faststartfinance.org/content/contributing-countries

in advance of Durban.

The Government have £2.9 billion to spend on international climate finance over the spending review period 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Combined Heat and Power: Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to bring forward proposals to prevent the Emissions Performance Standard from creating disincentives to investment in combined heat and power. [69867]

Gregory Barker: The Government remain committed to supporting the development of good quality combined heat and power. We will therefore give careful consideration to the treatment of CHP under the Emissions Performance Standard. We will be discussing the detailed design of the instrument with stakeholders over the coming months to help us prepare for legislation to ensure we avoid structuring it in a way which could act as a disincentive to investment in CHP.

Energy Efficiency

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what staffing he plans to provide for his Department's new office to promote national energy efficiency. [69864]

Gregory Barker: Under current plans, the Energy Efficiency Deployment Office will comprise up to 50 civil servant posts in 2011-12.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69278]

Gregory Barker: On 15 November 2010, *Official Report,* columns 615-16W, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in response to PQ16752 that the Government had announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

> a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;
>
> radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across Government; and
>
> the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management;

and that, in result, Departments would no longer be required to report against the previous Government's failed efficiency target.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010-11.

This impact was assessed using methodologies shown at Annex A. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

These savings are borne out in Department accounts. Note 12 of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC's) Report and Accounts 2010-11 (HC 1009) reports that non-pay Gross Admin Costs for DECC, excluding non-cash costs, reduced from £40.9 million in 2009-10 to £29.3 million in 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

Annex A: Activity and Calculation Method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for Department Ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009-10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other Professional Services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown Commercial	Government has renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to Government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in Memoranda of Understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.
Contingent Labour	Government has significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009-10.
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010-11 with that for 2009-10.

Annex A: Activity and Calculation Method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Centralising Procurement	Government has started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against an 2009-10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.
ICT	We implemented: (a) a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and (b) a review of all on-going ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010-11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.
Major Projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010-11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We have halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million Identity Cards—£50 million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million Whole Farm—£5 million We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures, that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects related negotiations.
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68554]

Gregory Barker: The Department is operating the following helplines in 2011-12:

Helpline	*Cost 2011-12*	*Purpose*
DECC Enquiry Line and night duty office	£89,000	Provides an initial point of telephone contact for all public enquiries, at any time of day, routing these to the appropriate part of the Department.
National Concessionary Fuel Office (NCFG) enquiry line	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of the overall NCFO service.	Provides an enquiry service for former British Coal employees regarding their entitlements (where eligible) to benefit under the National Concessionary Fuel Scheme.
Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) helplines	No designated funding as it was contained in the general LCBP budget.	Operated until July 2011. Fielded general enquiries, such as the possibility of exchanging LCBP grants for Feed-In Tariffs.
Confidential employee helpline	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of the overall PPC service.	DECC contracts with Personal Performance Consultants (UK) Ltd service to provide a telephone and e-mail helpline related to personal issues including managing stress, personal work problems, counselling, bereavement, family issues and career discussions as part of a wider Employee Assistance Scheme.

Helpline	*Cost 2011-12*	*Purpose*
Combined Heat and Power helpline	£96,000	Provides e-mail, electronic and telephone support and guidance to industry on technical development and quality assurance of Combined Heat and Power projects.
Oil and Gas Portal helpdesk	c.£125,000 for regulatory issues plus c.£60,000 for environmental issues	Provides helpdesk and industry support for the Portal, which conducts all oil and gas regulatory business processes electronically, including environmental aspects.
Electricity Portal helpdesk	c.£90,000	Provides helpdesk and industry support for the Portal, which issues consents for overhead lines, compulsory purchases etc.
Energie Helpline	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of the overall Energie service	Provides support and advice to UK companies and research organisations bidding for EU energy technology research, development and demonstration funding.
Warm Front helpline	No disaggregated figure available—the helpline is paid for as part of the overall Warm Front service	Provides advice about all aspects of the Warm Front scheme.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69509]

Gregory Barker: As of 1 July 2011, there was *(a)* nobody undertaking unpaid work experience; *(b)* one paid intern and no unpaid interns; and *(c)* nobody in unpaid positions working in the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Devolution

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met representatives of the devolved Administrations; and what matters were discussed. [69818]

Gregory Barker: All DECC Ministers have regular discussions with Ministers in the devolved Administrations on a range of climate and energy related issues. As has been the case with successive Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Electricity

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what meetings he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on his Department's White Paper on electricity market reform; [69816]

(2) what representations he has received from ministerial colleagues on his Department's White Paper on electricity market reform; [69817]

(3) if he will publish the *(a)* dates and *(b)* minutes of meetings he has held with representatives of each of the devolved Administrations on electricity market reform. [69871]

Charles Hendry: In keeping with good practice for any area of policy development, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change discussed his proposals on electricity market reform with Ministers in other Government Departments prior to seeking Cabinet clearance for the White Paper.

DECC Ministers have regular discussions with Ministers in the devolved Administrations on a range of climate and energy related issues. As has been the case with successive Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many expressions of interests he has received from electricity sector companies that will be willing to provide additional generating capacity under a capacity mechanism. [69859]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has neither received nor sought any firm expressions of interest from electricity sector companies that might provide additional capacity under a capacity mechanism.

We are currently consulting on the type of capacity mechanism to be introduced and intend to take a decision around the turn of the year. Ensuring a mechanism provides incentives to ensure sufficient capacity (including both generation and non-generation capacity such as demand side response) is in place to provide security of supply is a key criterion for that decision.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects to receive state aid clearance for his proposed electricity market reform mechanisms. [69873]

Charles Hendry: We will engage closely with the European Commission to ensure our policies on electricity market reform are consistent with the appropriate rules on state aid. Where state aid clearance is required, and as per all other state aid cases, the time it takes will depend on the specific policies in question and/or discussions with the Commission.

Electricity Generation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of barriers to entry and growth in electricity generation and supply markets for independent generators and suppliers. [69878]

Charles Hendry: The Electricity Market Reform White Paper set out the Government's assessment of barriers to entry in particular the problems caused by low levels of liquidity in the electricity wholesale market. Ofgem are consulting on proposals to address market liquidity. Market participants have also raised concerns about other potential barriers to entry including limited routes to market. To the extent that such concerns are substantiated and have not been addressed by Ofgem's the Government will take appropriate steps to address them.

In addition, we are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition, such as tariff complexity.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the implementation of those policies outlined in Planning our electric future: a White Paper for secure, affordable and low carbon electricity. [69880]

Gregory Barker: Policies set out in the White Paper will be implemented by:

discussing the detailed design of Electricity Market Reform (EMR) instruments with stakeholders, including Devolved Administrations and the European Commission

publishing a technical update at the turn of the year setting out further detail on the Capacity Mechanism and institutional arrangements for delivering EMR

aiming to introduce primary legislation for EMR in the second session of Parliament, which starts in May 2012

making the necessary administrative arrangements to prepare the chosen delivery organisation(s) to deliver EMR

ensuring a smooth transition to the new market arrangements supporting the principle of no retrospective changes for low carbon investments, and

working with relevant parties to enable early investment decisions to progress to timetable wherever possible.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of existing electricity generating capacity that will be decommissioned in each of the next 10 years. [69888]

Charles Hendry: For most power plants, the decommissioning date is a matter for the owners of the plant and is not estimated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

However, some power plants have regulated decommissioning dates, such as those covered by the large plant combustion directive (LCPD) as well as the current fleet of nuclear power stations. These dates are set out in the following table:

Station name	*Fuel*	*Installed capacity (MW)*	*Location*	*Date of regulated retirement*
Cockenzie	coal	1,152	Scotland	31 December 2015
Ironbridge	coal	940	West Midlands	31 December 2015
Tilbury B	coal	1,063	East	31 December 2015
Ferrybridge	coal	980	Yorkshire	31 December 2015
Didcot A	coal	1,958	South East	31 December 2015
Kingsnorth	coal	1,940	South East	31 December 2015
Hartlepool	nuclear	1,190	North East	2019
Heysham 1	nuclear	1,160	North West	2019
Dungeness B	nuclear	1,040	South East	2018
Wylfa	nuclear	980	Wales	2012
Hunterston B	nuclear	890	Scotland	2016
Hinkley Point B	nuclear	870	South West	2016
Oldbury	nuclear	217	South West	2012
Littlebrook D	oil	1,370	South East	31 December 2015
Grain	oil	1,300	South East	31 December 2015
Fawley	oil	968	South East	31 December 2015

Notes: 1. All plant closing under the LCPD, i.e. the coal and oil plant in the above list must close on or before 31 December 2015. 2. The lifetime of nuclear plant can be extended, but only with the approval of the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish his estimate of the electricity sector capacity margin for each year between 2011 and 2020. [69895]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not currently publish an estimate of the expected capacity margin.

The Electricity Market Reform (EMR) White Paper published in July 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/policy-legislation/EMR/2176-emr-white-paper.pdf

includes a scenario for the capacity margin between 2011 and 2030, including the estimated impact of current policies as well as the low carbon measures being introduced as part of EMR. This is based on outputs of the Redpoint Energy Model and does not constitute a formal estimate of the expected capacity margin.

Clause 79 in the Energy Bill currently before Parliament will require the Secretary of State to make an assessment of the capacity needed to meet electricity demand in Great Britain. This will be published in 2012 and in each subsequent year. The assessment will cover the four years following the year of its publication or any other periods that the Secretary of State specifies by order.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of electricity storage capacity in the UK between *(a)* 2011 and 2015, *(b)* 2016 and 2020, *(c)* 2021 and 2025 and *(d)* 2026 and 2030. [69896]

Charles Hendry: In DECC's latest Energy and Emission projections (published June 2010), UK electricity storage capacity was assumed to remain constant at 2.8GW. The assumption is the same in each scenario examined.

However, analysis conducted using the 2050 Calculator suggests that there remains uncertainty around the exact extent to which electricity storage plays a role in the system in the long-term. Electricity storage features in many successful pathways that meet the 80% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target while maintaining security of supply, and is likely to be an important technology for the future.

Part 1 of the "2050 Pathways Analysis—response to the call for evidence, March 2011":

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/2050/1343-2050-pathways-analysis-response-pt1.pdf

gives more details.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to *(a)* consult and *(b)* reach a decision on his plans for a capacity mechanism. [69897]

Charles Hendry: On 12 July, DECC published a White Paper on electricity market reform, "Planning Our Electric Future: a White Paper for secure, affordable and low-carbon energy"

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/emr_wp_2011.aspx

The White Paper includes a consultation on possible models for a capacity mechanism. The consultation closes on 4 October, and we intend to publish a decision on the type of mechanism to be introduced around the turn of the year.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to develop his policy on electricity systems. [69898]

Charles Hendry: As set out in chapter 6 of the Electricity Market Reform White Paper, further work will take place over the next year to develop policy on electricity systems, with the aim of publishing an electricity systems policy document in summer 2012. This will consider how electricity supply and demand is balanced in future given the challenges expected from more intermittent and inflexible generation and increasing demand. It will look at what changes might be required to the system framework and the incentives within it to ensure secure and efficient system balancing. This will include the future role we expect different sources of flexibility to play including storage, demand side response, interconnection to other electricity markets and flexible generation plant.

Electricity: Competition

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps Ofgem is taking to *(a)* increase the ability of new entrants to the electricity market and *(b)* improve liquidity in the electricity market. [69893]

Charles Hendry: Following the Retail Market Review in March 2011, Ofgem put forward a range of proposals to improve competition in the electricity supply market. For example, tariff simplification proposals are designed to make it easier for consumers to identify who is offering the cheapest tariff and therefore to engage in the market.

Ofgem's work on electricity wholesale market liquidity is also intended to support new entrants in supply and generation markets. Ofgem has consulted on two possible interventions (the Mandatory Auction and Mandatory Market Maker) and expect to publish an impact assessment at the end of this year. Ofgem's proposals have been developed in order to make sure that independent supply and generation companies have access to the wholesale products they need to operate effectively.

Electricity Industry: Theft

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hyndburn (Graham Jones) of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 851W, on electricity industry theft, how many recorded security incidents took place between 1 February 2011 and 1 August 2011; and what information he holds on such incidents by *(a)* regional and *(b)* local authority area. [69813]

Charles Hendry: Pursuant to my answer to the hon. Member for Hyndburn (Graham Jones) of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 851W, I can confirm that the Department does not collect information concerning security incidents relating to metal theft. The Energy Networks Association, (ENA) on behalf of the energy sector, manage a Security Incident Reporting System (SIRS) database that collects data on security incidents experienced by electricity network operators. The SIRS database recorded 3797 security incidents over the period 1 February 2011 to 1 August 2011.

Energy

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the *(a)* total and *(b)* domestic level of UK energy consumption in 2015. [69740]

Charles Hendry: Future UK energy consumption will depend on a number of variables, including fossil fuel prices and the carbon price. Different assumptions about these variables lead to different projections of consumption. The results for the central scenario, published in DECC's latest Energy and Emission projections (June 2010):

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

are below:

Central scenario	*2015 (ktoe)*
Total energy demand	217,804
Final energy consumption	146,144
Of which:	
Domestic sector	38,008

'Total energy demand' includes use of all energy products within the UK, including those used for electricity generation, transformation and non-energy uses. DECC will publish new energy and emission projections in the autumn.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will list the meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of independent energy generators since May 2010. [69861]

Gregory Barker: All our meetings with external stakeholders are published on the Cabinet Office website in line with our transparency commitments.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to undertake a review of UK energy usage in each decade up to 2050. [69889]

Charles Hendry: Maintaining a strong understanding of energy supply and demand is central to DECC's work. As well as doing this effectively on an ongoing basis, DECC formally reviews energy usage and reports to Parliament as part of its statutory reporting framework under, among others, the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Energy Act 2004.

DECC also produces regular publications on UK energy usage on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. The latest annual publication, the "Digest of UK Energy Statistics" was published in July and is available in the House of Commons Library.

Energy Performance Certificates

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Committee on Climate Change report, Meeting Carbon Budgets - 3rd Progress Report to Parliament, June 2011, when he plans to respond to the recommendation for the mandatory roll-out of display energy certificates to non-residential buildings. [69226]

Gregory Barker: We recognise that there are potential benefits in rolling out Display Energy Certificates (DECs) to commercial properties, and we continue to explore the options, while developing the evidence base for achieving this without placing undue burdens on business.

In relation to the 3rd Progress Report to Parliament of the Committee on Climate Change, the Climate Change Act 2008 requires the Government to lay a response to the annual progress reports of the Committee on Climate Change before Parliament no later than 15 October every year.

Energy Supply

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will provide an update on recent progress with the *(a)* Offshore Transmission Coordination Project, *(b)* North Seas Countries' Offshore Grid Initiative, *(c)* All Islands Approach and *(d)* French-UK-Ireland region regulators forum. [69869]

Charles Hendry: The Offshore Transmission Coordination Project is running through 2011 to consider whether any additional measures will be required to deliver coordinated networks through the competitive offshore transmission regime. Eight stakeholder meetings and workshops have been held to date, details of which are published on the Ofgem website. DECC and Ofgem aim to publish a joint conclusions report in the winter.

In the first six months of the North Seas Countries' Offshore Grid Initiative data were collected on the regulatory regimes, planning procedures and projected offshore generation and demand scenarios of the member countries as the first step in identifying barriers to co-ordinated European offshore grid development and elaborating plausible configurations.

Ministers and Heads of Administration from the British Isles, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man agreed to co-operate in an All Islands Approach to energy, including the potential for renewable energy trading, in the June 2011 British Irish Council held in London. Officials are putting together delivery plans for the workstreams involved.

The France-UK-Ireland region regulators' forum has agreed priorities and timed deliverables for the period 2011-2014 including the steps needed to implement the EU target model for capacity allocation and congestion management on interconnectors in the region and the framework for interconnector investment.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects new rules to be brought forward on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency. [69874]

Charles Hendry: On 8 December 2010 the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation on energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT). This set out a regime for the regulation of electricity and gas wholesale markets, including mechanisms for national energy regulators to detect and deter market abuse, in co-operation with the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators (ACER) and, where appropriate, national financial regulators. Following negotiations in Council working groups, an agreed text will be voted on by the European Parliament on 12 September. The regulation will also need to obtain political agreement by the Council of Ministers before coming into force.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to provide further clarification on the future role of *(a)* demand side response, storage and interconnection and *(b)* the development of a smarter grid. [69875]

Charles Hendry: As set out in chapter 6 of the Electricity Market Reform White Paper further work will take place over the next year to develop policy on electricity systems, with the aim of publishing a document in summer 2012. This will consider the contribution demand side response, storage and interconnection can make to the efficient functioning of the electricity system. Work is also under way through the joint DECC and Ofgem led Smart Grid Forum (SGF) to evaluate the likely new electricity demands distribution networks will face from now to 2030, the contribution that smart technologies can make to manage these, and the develop an evaluation framework to assess the costs and benefits of such approaches. Outputs from the SGF will be published in the first quarter of 2012 and will help to inform the investments made in the next distributed price control review (RIIO-ED1) as well as the Government's electricity systems policy document.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the need for changes to the offshore transmission regime. [69886]

Charles Hendry: DECC and Ofgem are currently making an assessment of whether any additional measures will be required to deliver coordinated networks through the competitive offshore transmission regime. This is being progressed, in dialogue with industry, through the Offshore Transmission Coordination Project. DECC and Ofgem aim to publish a joint conclusions report containing such an assessment in the winter. Further details of the project and industry working groups are available on the Ofgem website.

Energy Supply: Fees and Charges

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects Ofgem to complete Project TransmiT; and when he expects proposals to be brought forward in respect of the project. [69868]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem published an open letter on 7 July 2011 which set out their planned timetable for the next stages of Project TransmiT. The letter can be found at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Networks/Trans/PT/Documents1/110707_Final%20launch%20SCR%20statement.pdf

The letter states that Ofgem's aim is to publish a consultation of options in October and final recommendations in December, with any reforms to be implemented by April 2012. The letter explicitly recognises that this timetable will only be achievable with constructive industry involvement in the process.

Energy: Billing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward legislative proposals for energy suppliers to provide customers with information on their energy bills on *(a)* comparative consumption and *(b)* their supplier's lowest tariff. [69240]

Charles Hendry: The Energy Bill includes powers to legislate to give customers greater control over their energy costs by requiring energy suppliers to inform consumers about the cheapest available tariff.

We are seeking to implement this proposal as well as the provision of comparative consumption information through a voluntary agreement with energy suppliers, but we will legislate if a suitable voluntary agreement cannot be reached.

Energy: Competition

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of consumers that will receive energy from one of the six largest energy companies in *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2025 and *(d)* 2030. [69855]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not estimate the future market shares of competitors in the energy supply market.

Government are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail energy markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition, such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity, in its Retail Market Review.

Energy: Conservation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish an assessment of *(a)* whether there are sufficient measures to encourage efficiency improvements in electricity usage and *(b)* whether there is a need for appropriate additional measures to encourage energy efficiency. [69894]

Charles Hendry: Initial analysis suggests there is cost-effective energy efficiency potential across the economy which is unlikely to be realised through the current mix of policy measures. A key role for DECCs new Energy Efficiency Deployment Office will be to develop this analysis and assess those areas where it might be appropriate to tighten existing policy or introduce appropriate additional measures, to encourage greater energy efficiency. I would expect to make public the results of this assessment when it is sufficient developed.

As part of this work DECC is keen to ensure that electricity consumers contribute an appropriate share of the UK's overall improvement in energy efficiency and will undertake an assessment over the coming year to determine whether further steps are needed to improve the support and incentives for the efficient use of electricity. The results of this assessment will be made public over the course of next year.

Energy: EU Internal Trade

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the potential contribution to UK economic growth of the completion of an EU single market in energy. [69307]

Charles Hendry: The impact assessment on implementation of the third package of legislation on the single market in energy concluded that significant benefits could derive to the UK from full compliance with the package across the EU. The package should have an overall positive effect on economic growth by promoting cross-border trade and increasing competition. Increased trade and greater market integration should reduce our vulnerability to supply and price shocks and provide opportunities for exports. Increased competition should put downward pressure on consumer prices through reducing market power and providing incentives for suppliers to keep costs down. It should also encourage innovation with its positive effects on productivity and economic growth. Consumers should also benefit from greater choice and improved service. However, further action under the package to agree cross-border technical codes, which is already underway, will be required to complete the single energy market and this should lead to greater benefits for the UK. The aim is to achieve this by 2014.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Third Internal Energy Market Package has been transposed into UK law. [69872]

Charles Hendry: The draft Electricity and Gas (Internal Markets) Regulations 2011, which transpose the Third Internal Energy Market Package, were laid before Parliament on 18 July 2011.

They will be made after Parliament has approved the regulations by affirmative resolution. Further regulations will be laid shortly to make certain changes to gas transporter licences in order to transpose outstanding aspects of the Third Internal Energy Market Package.

Energy: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the expected level of investment in the UK energy generation sector between *(a)* 2011 and 2015, *(b)* 2016 and 2020, *(c)* 2021 and 2025 and *(d)* 2026 and 2030; [69890]

(2) what estimate he has made of the required level of investment in electricity generation to ensure a decarbonised electricity generation sector by 2030 between *(a)* 2011 and 2015, *(b)* 2016 and 2020, *(c)* 2021 and 2025 and *(d)* 2026 and 2030. [69891]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to transforming the UK's electricity system to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable.

There is a need for substantial investment in the UK's electricity generation sector in order to ensure future security of supply and build a more diverse and sustainable energy mix. Estimates in the Electricity Market Reform Consultation Document Impact Assessment are that £70-75 billion of investment in new electricity generation plant would be required for the period to 2020 to meet illustrative decarbonisation and renewables targets[1]. These targets will be reviewed in the Government response to the Committee on Climate Change's recommendations in the autumn.

Government projections for future business investment across the whole economy are contained within the Office of Budget Responsibility's forecasts[2]. The outturn level of investment in the electricity generation sector will depend on commercial decisions and is affected by a large number of additional economic, fiscal, and regulatory factors. Nevertheless, the package of policies set out in the EMR White Paper[3] and the following legislation will play a key role in supporting the necessary private sector investment.

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[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/emr/1042-ia-electricity-market-reform.pdf

[2] http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

[3] http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/policy-legislation/EMR/2176-emr-white-paper.pdf

Energy: International Co-operation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the European Supergrid to become operational. [69870]

Charles Hendry: The term "supergrid" is used in a variety of different contexts ranging from a more integrated offshore grid in the seas around the UK, to a network of large interconnectors linking low carbon generation with centres of demand across the EU. The Government are engaged in a number of processes, including the North Seas Countries' Offshore Grid Initiative and the All Islands Approach agreed at the British Irish Council summit in June, that are considering the costs, benefits and technical challenges of a more integrated offshore grid in the North and Irish seas and how it could be developed. Later this year, the Commission are expected to publish proposals for facilitating investment in energy infrastructure across the EU, including major electricity links. Any developments are likely to take place in an incremental manner over a period of years.

Energy: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has met *(a)* Welsh Ministers and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales regarding the devolution of decision-making on consents for energy projects with a generating capacity of 50 to 100 megawatts. [69394]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has had discussions with both Welsh Ministers and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales on the devolution of decision-making on consents for energy projects with a generating capacity of 50 MW to 100 MW.

The Government have indicated that they do not currently intend to devolve this matter to Welsh Ministers.

Environment Protection: Business

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress he has made in developing a voluntary Green Responsibility Deal with business and other organisations. [69241]

Gregory Barker: Officials in DECC and the Cabinet Office have had discussions with stakeholder groups and businesses about encouraging voluntary action on energy use and emissions reduction.

In the recent publication on Enabling the Transition to a Green Economy we highlighted a number of areas of action that leading businesses are already undertaking and that we encourage others to consider.

We will set out further details of work to encourage voluntary action, in line with the Government's responsibility deal approach, in the autumn.

Gas-fired Power Stations

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the average commercial lifespan of a new gas-fired power plant. [69866]

Charles Hendry: The expected commercial lifespan of a new gas plant is a matter for the owners of the plant and is not estimated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The Department has recently published a reported by PB Power on the average expected technical lifetime, the number of years a plant might be expected to be able to operate, for a range of non-renewable plant. For Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plant this was estimated to be 30 years. The full report can be found on DECC's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/economics-social-research/2127-electricity-generation-cost-model-2011.pdf

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many new gas plants he expects to enter operation in the UK in each of the next five years. [69885]

Charles Hendry: The Department for Energy and Climate Change does not make estimates of the number of new gas plants expected to enter operation each year.

However, National Grid do provide an estimate through their transmission entry capacity (TEC) database. This database includes expected future new gas plant, and an expected completion date. The completion date represents the developer's estimate of when the plant will obtain transmission entry capacity. The following table shows the number of gas plants with a completion date over the next five years from this database which was last updated on 23 August 2011.

Completion date	*Number of gas plants*
2011	1
2012	3
2013	3
2014	4
2015	1
2016	5

A link is provided to the database as follows:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/GettingConnected/ContractedGenerationInformation/TransmissionEntryCapacityRegister/

Green Deal Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to co-ordinate the introduction of the Green Deal with roll-out of the Renewable Heat Incentive. [69242]

Gregory Barker: Phase One of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) should be open for applications from the end of September, subject to state aid clearance.

We are aiming to introduce Phase Two of the RHI, which will include support for households, in autumn 2012 alongside the Green Deal. In addition we have already publicly stated that any measure that pays through savings will be supported in the Green Deal, including microgeneration measures where relevant. We are still developing the details on how we will co-ordinate the launch of the two policies but will aim to publish the details as soon as possible.

Local Energy Partnerships

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to create local energy partnerships. [69376]

Gregory Barker: We are designing the Green Deal framework, including the new Energy Company Obligation (ECO), in a way which should offer natural encouragement for local authorities and other local interest groups on the one hand, and energy companies, Green Deal providers and other private sector organisations on the other, to work in partnership to deliver practical measures and benefits at local level.

Nuclear Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the nuclear industry to ensure *(a)* confidence in the sector and *(b)* preparations for new nuclear build. [69854]

Charles Hendry: Ministers and officials meet on a regular basis with representatives from the nuclear industry with regard to the safe and secure operation of existing nuclear facilities and progress on the UK new build programme. All ministerial meetings are published on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministeritgs.aspx

In particular, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change chairs the Nuclear Development Forum, (NDF), which meets three times a year. Its members are senior representatives from the nuclear industry, including vendors, operators, key suppliers, contractors and unions—as well as the Government. The Forum ensures there is regular and high-level contact on the issues that matter the most to potential investors and operators regarding the UK new build programme.

The next NDF is due to meet in the autumn. The minutes from meetings are available on the nuclear pages of the DECC website.

Offshore Transmission Co-ordination Group

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the functions are of the Offshore Transmission Coordination Group. [69887]

Charles Hendry: The terms of reference for the Offshore Transmission Coordination Group are on the Ofgem website. The Group, through the expertise, experience and knowledge of its members, provides support to Government and Ofgem's development and consideration of policy options for maximising the opportunity of the development of co-ordinated offshore transmission infrastructure. The Group has met four times to date, details of which are also on the Ofgem website.

Power Stations

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the potential for a new mixed-oxide plant. [69851]

Charles Hendry: The potential for a new mixed oxide (MOX) plant is part of our considerations on the policy options for dealing with the UK's plutonium stockpile, which the Government have been consulting on. While we have not formally announced the outcome of the consultation, our preliminary view, as set out in our paper, was that our plutonium should be reused as mixed oxide (MOX) fuel in reactors. Should we proceed with our preliminary view about reusing plutonium, implementation of this policy would require a new MOX plant.

Renewable Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is undertaking with its EU counterparts to promote renewable deployment. [69865]

Gregory Barker: The UK is working with its EU counterparts as a member of a Concerted Action Network on the Renewable Energy Directive (CA-RES). The CA-RES supports the achievement of national renewable energy targets required by 2020 under the directive. It will focus on topics that require a common approach or which would benefit from the exchange of best practice between member states.

The main objectives of the CA-RES are:

The exchange of experience and best practice between member states on the implementation of the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive

Encouraging dialogue between member states on common approaches to the effective implementation of the directive

Facilitating the process of cross-learning at the EU level and providing support for effective implementation of the directive.

Renewable Energy: Electricity

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity generation he estimates will come from renewable sources in 2020. [69862]

Gregory Barker: DECC estimates that around 30% of electricity generation will need to come from renewable sources by 2020 as part of the effort to meet the 2020 renewable energy target.

We are committed to meeting our renewable energy target and our modelling shows that this is challenging but achievable[1].

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/meeting-energy-demand/renewable-energy/2167-uk-renewable-energy-roadmap.pdf

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity generation he expects to come from *(a)* onshore wind, *(b)* offshore wind and *(c)* biomass in 2020. [69863]

Gregory Barker: The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap, published in July 2011, provides illustrative 'central ranges' for deployment for a number of renewable technologies—including onshore wind, offshore wind and biomass electricity—based upon modelling of variables such as technology cost, build rates, and the policy framework.

Using these central ranges, the potential contribution to electricity generation from the following technologies in 2020 is as follows:

(a) onshore wind could contribute between 24-32 TWh, 6-9% of overall electricity generation;

(b) offshore wind could contribute between 33-58 TWh, 9-15% of overall electricity generation;

(c) biomass (including dedicated feedstock, energy from waste, landfill and sewage gas, conversion and co-firing) could contribute between 32-50 TWh, 9-13% of overall electricity generation.

The central ranges do not represent technology specific targets or the level of our ambition. They are based on our current understanding of deployment, costs and non-financial barriers and could change significantly as the market evolves to 2020.

For further information, the Roadmap can be downloaded here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/meeting-energy-demand/renewable-energy/2167-uk-renewable-energy-roadmap.pdf

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to allow microgenerators to set the sale price of the energy they generate at the same rate as is charged for the energy that they use. [69361]

Charles Hendry: Microgenerators are free to sell their electricity on the open market and can chose to opt out of the export tariff which, since April 2010, has been available to eligible generators as part of the support provided under the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The export tariff is a guaranteed payment for the amount of electricity exported to the grid and is additional to a payment for the amount of electricity generated and the bill savings associated with using electricity generated on site. Both the export tariff and the generation tariff are linked to the retail prices index and update annually.

The first comprehensive review of FITs is currently underway and is considering all aspects of the scheme, including tariffs and arrangements for exports. We will be consulting on proposals as part of the comprehensive review later this year.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether the feed-in tariff contracts for difference payment will be paid for intermittent energy generation in *(a)* advance or *(b)* arrears; [69856]

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[1] Source—UK Renewable Energy Roadmap

(2) whether the feed-in tariff contracts for difference payment will be paid for baseload energy generation in *(a)* advance or *(b)* arrears. [69857]

Gregory Barker: My officials are currently working on details regarding the implementation of the Feed-in Tariff with Contracts for Difference. A technical update will be published at the turn of the year setting out further detail on the institutional arrangements for delivering the electricity market reforms.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to determine whether a greater certainty of payment in the feed-in tariff contracts for difference will form part of the support package for carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. [69858]

Gregory Barker: The Department is considering several options for providing support to carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects, including through the Feed-In Tariffs with Contracts for Difference in concert with other measures. We intend to set out the broad approach to providing support when we launch the call for the additional CCS projects.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish further details on *(a)* how and *(b)* by whom feed-in tariff contracts for difference will be delivered. [69892]

Gregory Barker: My officials are currently working on the detail regarding implementation of the feed-in tariff with Contracts for Difference, and are continuing to discuss aspects with a variety of industry stakeholders. A technical update will be published at the turn of the year setting out further detail on the institutional arrangements for delivering the electricity market reforms.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the finance and investment community on the provision of finance for anaerobic digestion. [69227]

Gregory Barker: Although I have not had any recent discussions on the provision of finance for anaerobic digestion, DECC has worked in partnership with DEFRA to address the financing challenge for the sector through the Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan which was published in June. The strategy sets out a programme of work for Government and industry to tackle the barriers to deployment of anaerobic digestion. A number of finance and investment companies participated in the discussions of the DECC-led regulation and Finance Working Group which fed into the overarching strategy and put forward actions to help the industry obtain finance. The strategy is available in the Libraries of the House and at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/business/anaerobic-digestion/

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the £200 million his Department has allocated to support new low-carbon technologies has been spent so far on *(a)* offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at ports, *(b)* innovation in offshore wind component manufacture and *(c)* the development of marine technologies. [69884]

Charles Hendry: The spending review allocated over £200 million to support low carbon technologies, of which up to £60 million was included to support the establishment of offshore wind manufacturing at port sites in assisted areas in England. Bids for support for this fund, made under the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) scheme are made on a confidential basis. We are working with a number of companies on a commercially confidential basis to take forward this spend. Information on grant offers for sums greater than £75,000 is normally published following the payment of the first instalment of the grant. Publicity of a GBI project before this stage can only take place with the agreement of the applicant company.

The process of allocating the remaining funding to projects over the four year period of the spending review is ongoing but no funds have yet been spent. In June DECC announced, subject to value for money assessments, up to £20 million to support the pre-commercial demonstration of two marine array devices in years three and four of the spending review period; and in July DECC announced, subject to value for money assessments, up to £30 million, for offshore wind technology development. Further information on both these innovation programmes as well as funding allocations for other technologies will be available later this year.

The Carbon Trust receives funding from DECC for offshore wind technology innovation through the Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA). DECC has committed in the region of £4 million to the OWA in financial year 2011-12; of which so far £902,000 of work has been completed and £138,000 has been invoiced and paid.

Renewable Energy: Government Assistance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons his Department did not secure state aid approval in time to implement an increase in the level of financial support available to anaerobic digestion plants on 1 August 2011, as outlined in the consultation on the fast-track review for small-scale low-carbon electricity. [69852]

Gregory Barker: The consultation on the fast-track review of feed-in tariffs for small-scale low carbon electricity (published March 2011) made clear that the proposed increases in tariffs for anaerobic digestion were subject to any necessary state aid approval from the European Commission.

Similarly, the decision document (published June 2011) confirming the outcome of that consultation noted that:

> "the increase to the AD tariff requires a more detailed level of scrutiny by the European Commission under State Aid regulations. This may lead to a delay to the introduction of the increased AD tariff which will be introduced on 1 August or the date of state aids approval, whichever is later."

The process of requesting state aid approval started immediately following the publication of this document. We are currently awaiting the European Commission's decision and have ensured that the new tariffs for AD will apply as soon as state aid clearance is received.

Renewables Obligation

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will retain a band within the renewables obligation for biomass combined heat and power generation and grandfather this to the end of the scheme. [69493]

Gregory Barker: A banding review of renewable obligation support for all technologies began in October last year and any change in support for biomass combined heat and power generation will be considered as part of this process.

We intend to launch a consultation on the proposed new bands shortly. Any changes in support levels will be come into effect on 1 April 2013 (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the length of periods of grace that will be offered to new energy generation after the closure of the renewables obligation. [69860]

Gregory Barker: The Government recognise that there is a significant existing renewable electricity investor community, and we aim to prevent a hiatus in renewables deployment while the new Electricity Market Reforms are implemented. Having sought industry views on the best means to transition to a new scheme, Annex D of the Electricity Market Reform White Paper sets out in full the transition arrangements for renewables.

This includes our intention to offer limited grace periods to generation which was due to accredit on or before 31 March 2017, but which was delayed through no fault of its own, by either a change in grid connection date instigated by the transmission or distribution operator or a delay in the agreed installation of radar. We intend that these generators may accredit under the RO and will remain subject to the 2037 end date for the RO. Further details, including the evidence requirements for exercise of the grace period, are still being considered.

We intend to consult on the provision of Banding Review grace periods as part of the forthcoming consultation on the Renewables Obligation Banding Review, where stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on our proposals. Following the Banding Review consultation, our intention is to mirror the Banding Review grace period proposals in the RO Transition.

Solar Power: China

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the introduction by the Chinese Government of a nationwide feed-in tariff incentive scheme for photovoltaic solar installations on the global solar photovoltaic market. [69853]

Gregory Barker: Like many other countries, China has recently announced a feed-in tariffs scheme. The Chinese scheme has some key differences to the Great Britain feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme; for example, the Chinese scheme is based on a single tariff level for all installations, with degression over time, whereas the GB scheme is differentiated according to technology and installed capacity. Given the size of the potential internal Chinese market for renewable energy development, this announcement could have significant impacts, especially for the global PV industry. DECC officials will continue to follow the progress of the scheme as it is implemented.

Water Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress his Department has made in the development of the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment for English and Welsh waters to support the deployment of marine energy devices. [69230]

Charles Hendry: The Offshore Strategic Environmental Assessment (OESEA) has been completed and was subject to a 12-week public consultation period. The assessment document can be found at:

http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/index.php

My officials are currently preparing a post-consultation report which should be published on the SEA website shortly.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to accelerate the development and deployment of marine renewable technologies at commercial scale through the UK Marine Energy Programme. [69231]

Gregory Barker: At the start of this year I launched the UK Marine Energy Programme which has established three working groups, Financing, Planning and Consenting and Knowledge Sharing, to examine the issues and potential barriers to the development and deployment of marine renewable technologies at commercial scale. The working groups draw their representatives from across the industry including the energy utilities, industrial companies, technology developers, financiers as well as Government.

The outputs of the Financing working group fed into the Department's deliberations on innovation support and it provided evidence to support the Department's decision to invest up to £20 million, subject to a value for money assessment, in wave and tidal power to help develop marine energy technologies from prototype stage to demonstration of arrays of devices. The group has also fed into the current renewables obligation banding review.

The next board meeting will take place towards the end of the year.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether marine energy projects will be eligible to receive support through his proposed feed-in tariff with Contract for Difference. [69234]

Charles Hendry: Under the reforms outlined in the EMR White Paper, the competitive market will continue but four inter-locking policy instruments are proposed to change the returns generators can expect for the power stations they build and the electricity they generate:

Greater long-term certainty around the additional cost of running polluting plant through a carbon price floor. Proposals from the Treasury to provide greater support and certainty to the carbon price will increase investment in low carbon generation by providing a clearer long-term price for carbon in the power sector.

Long-term contracts for low carbon generation will make clean energy investment more attractive still. Through a 'contract for difference' feed-in tariff, the Government will agree clear, long-term contracts, resulting in a top-up payment to low carbon generators if wholesale prices are low but clawing back money for consumers if prices become higher than the cost of low carbon generation. An alternative 'premium' feed-in tariff is also set out in the consultation document.

Additional payments to encourage the construction of reserve plants to ensure the lights stay on. A capacity mechanism will ensure there remains an adequate safety cushion of capacity as the amount of intermittent and inflexible low carbon generation increases.

A back-stop to limit how much carbon the most dirty power stations—coal—can emit. An Emissions Performance Standard will reinforce the existing requirement that no new coal is built without carbon capture and storage.

The reforms are aimed at giving existing players and new entrants in the energy sector the certainty they need to raise the level of investment they need. Ofgem's review into the liquidity of the wholesale electricity market will be an essential complement to the reforms.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made in establishing the South West Marine Energy Park. [69379]

Gregory Barker: At the first meeting of the UK Marine Energy Programme Board earlier this year I asked stakeholders in the south-west of England to come forward with plans for how they could create a marine energy park in the region which could form a potential model for other regions looking at establishing their own marine energy park.

Regen South West, along with representatives of Plymouth and Cornwall council, presented their concept of a Marine Energy Park to the UK Marine Energy Programme Board last June. The presentation was well received and showed the right balance of ambition, practicality and flexibility necessary to design a sustainable park and build on the strengths which exist in the region.

They are developing their proposals further and will provide an update at the next programme board. I have had meetings with other regional stakeholders to discuss how they might create Marine Energy Parks in their own areas.

Wave Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to support the Siadar Wave Energy Project. [69314]

Gregory Barker: It would not be appropriate for me to comment on whether the Government will provide support for individual companies or projects.

However, the coalition Government is committed to supporting the development of marine energy in the UK. I am working with the sector, through the Marine Energy Programme Board, to address the barriers which exist to the development of the wave and tidal sector in the UK. This includes the Department's ongoing plans to establish Marine Energy Parks and our recent announcement of up to £20 million innovation funding, subject to value for money assessment, to support the demonstration of arrays of devices.

Wind Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support he plans to provide for the development of the Eneco wind park. [69237]

Charles Hendry: Offshore wind farms are supported at the technology level, based on the amount of electricity they generate. Currently, wind farms accredited by 31 March 2014 are supported under the renewables obligation (RO) at two renewable obligation certificates (ROCs) per MWh. We are currently carrying out a banding review to determine RO support levels beyond then. Through electricity market reform, we are putting in place future support for low carbon electricity generation, as set out in our White Paper[1]. The UK's Renewable Energy Roadmap[2] sets out a comprehensive action plan to accelerate the UK's deployment and use of renewable energy. This includes offshore wind as one of the eight technologies that have the greatest potential to help meet our renewable energy target. Both documents were published on 12 July this year.

I co-chair the Offshore Wind Developers Forum, which is working with UK offshore wind developers to ensure the deliverability of offshore wind and to identify economic opportunities for business in the UK.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011.aspx

[2] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/re_roadmap/re_roadmap.aspx

HOME DEPARTMENT

UK Border Agency Worker Scheme

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 805-6W, on the UK Border Agency Worker Scheme, how many applications to the UK Border Agency Worker Registration Scheme have been accepted since the establishment of the scheme; and what the nationality was of *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applicants. [69549]

Damian Green: The Worker Registration Scheme was established in May 2004 and ended on 30 April 2011. The total number of applications that were accepted since the scheme was established is 2,001,254.

The number of applications approved and refused by nationality is provided in the table.

Nationality	*Approved*	*Refused*
Czech Republic	78,114	939
Estonia	16,100	147
Hungary	82,997	452
Latvia	140,852	836
Lithuania	213,309	1,793
Poland	1,209,698	6,045
Slovakia	181,507	2,022
Slovenia	1,694	18
Other	6	1,116
Total	1,924,277	13,368

Animal Welfare

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it will be a mandatory requirement for designated establishments to meet or exceed the standards set out in future codes of practice on *(a)* humane killing and *(b)* housing and care of animals used in scientific procedures. [69763]

Nick Herbert: Annexes III and IV of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes set out mandatory requirements for the care and accommodation of animals and methods of killing, respectively. The requirements of annex IV must be implemented in UK legislation from 1 January 2013 and those of annex III from 1 January 2017.

Article 2 of the European directive allows member states to retain stricter national provisions in force on 9 November 2010 provided such measures do not inhibit the free market by prohibiting or impeding the supply or use of animals from another member state applying the minimum standards set out in the directive, or the placing on the market of products developed with the use of such animals.

Views on the application of article 2 in relation to the matters covered by annexes III and IV are being sought in the public consultation on the options for transposition of the European directive. The public consultation was published on 13 June 2011 and closes today (5 September 2011). Careful account will be taken of any responses received on these matters in the development of future guidance and codes of practice.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for *(a)* guidance notes and *(b)* codes of practice regarding humane killing, severity classification of procedures and animal housing and care to accompany legislation implementing Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes; and what plans she has to consult stakeholders from the research community, veterinarians, animal technologists and representatives of animal welfare organisations on such guidance notes and codes of practice. [69819]

Nick Herbert: Preliminary work on the preparation of guidance and a code of practice to accompany the legislation implementing European Directive 2010/63/EU has begun. We will seek input from individuals and groups with an interest, including those listed, at appropriate points in the detailed drafting process.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to change the *(a)* nature and *(b)* frequency of inspections of establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [69820]

Nick Herbert: At present the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate implements a risk-based approach to inspection and as such the frequency, duration and style of inspection may vary as any relevant risks alter.

Views on the inspection system have been sought in the public consultation on the options for transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The public consultation was published on 13 June 2011 and closed on 5 September 2011. The arrangements for inspections will be determined after relevant responses have been considered.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to allocate additional funding for the National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes arising from implementation of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. [69822]

Lynne Featherstone: The functions of the National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes are set out in Article 49 of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

Views on the National Committee are currently being sought in the public consultation on the options for transposition of the directive. The public consultation was published on 13 June 2011 and closed on 5 September 2011.

The arrangements for the National Committee, including any funding requirements, will be determined in due course after relevant responses have been considered.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reduce the number of animals bred for use in scientific research; and if she will make a statement. [69843]

Lynne Featherstone: The licensing system under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is demand led and provides no direct mechanism for reducing the breeding and use of animals. Instead the Act requires that animal use is kept to a minimum.

The coalition agreement includes a commitment to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. The commitment will be delivered through a science-led programme led by the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), an organisation with a strong record in reducing animal use.

The programme will focus on refinement as well as reduction and replacement and will co-ordinate action to minimise and reduce animal use and suffering while avoiding actions which might simply drive work abroad to countries where lower standards or less stringent testing guidelines apply.

Any reduction in animal use achieved by the programme is likely also to have an impact on the demand for purpose-bred animals in the UK.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to provide support to the voluntary and third sector to provide services to tackle antisocial behaviour in urban areas. [69691]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office announced the creation of the Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund in July 2011. This fund is worth £5 million in 2011-12 and a further £5 million in 2012-13. The fund seeks to encourage the voluntary and community sector to develop creative new approaches to tackling crime in local neighbourhoods, including antisocial behaviour. It will open to bids at the end of this month.

The Home Office is developing work in response to the recommendations made by Baroness Newlove, the Government's Champion for Active, Safer Communities, in her report "Our Vision for Safe and Active Communities". This includes the roll-out of the 101 non-emergency number for reporting antisocial behaviour, and driving up volunteering in the civil service. The Home Office has also provided funding for seven "Newlove Neighbourhoods", supporting community activists to tackle the crime and antisocial behaviour problems in their neighbourhoods.

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of Mosquito devices in operation in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each local authority area. [69559]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collect information centrally on the number of Mosquito devices in operation in the UK or in individual local authority areas.

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received representations on the *(a)* appropriateness, *(b)* ethics and *(c)* legality of the use of the Mosquito device; and if she will make a statement. [69560]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has received representations from members of the public and a range of organisations on the appropriateness, ethics and legality of the Mosquito device.

Use of the Mosquito is not currently prohibited or regulated under UK law. It is a commercial product and is not endorsed by the Home Office or the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Civil Disorder

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to recover from the perpetrators the costs of *(a)* policing and *(b)* damage arising from public disorder in August 2011. [69254]

Nick Herbert: There are currently no plans to recover the policing costs from the perpetrators of the disorder. However, courts can impose a compensation order for any offence that has resulted in personal injury, loss or damage. This will apply where individual victims have been injured, as well as where individuals or businesses have experienced offences such as theft, burglary or criminal damage. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill will strengthen the law on compensation orders by giving the courts a clear, positive duty to consider imposing such an order in any case where there is an identifiable victim.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* homeowners and *(b)* businesses have sought compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 in respect of damage or loss sustained during the disturbances in August 2011; how many have received compensation to date; what the average sum paid in compensation has been; and how much compensation she expects to be paid (i) to those who have submitted claims and (ii) in total when all claims have been received. [69786]

Nick Herbert: We do not hold this information centrally, as claims under the Riot Damages Act are made direct to police authorities.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received additional funding from her Department towards the cost of responding to the disturbances in August 2011; and how much she estimates will be paid out by her Department in respect of these costs. [69788]

Nick Herbert: To date, no forces have applied for or received funding to cover the cost of policing the disturbances in August 2011.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments were made to each police authority under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 in each year since 1997; what estimate she has made of the amount of such payments likely to be made in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [69821]

Nick Herbert: Claims for compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act 1996 are made directly to the police authorities. These data are not held centrally. There is no estimate yet for the total cost for any future claims.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each (i) age group and (ii) local authority were (A) killed, (B) seriously injured and (C) slightly injured during recent incidents of public disorder; and if she will make a statement. [69827]

Nick Herbert: Data for offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in August (the month that these incidents of public disorder took place) will be available from 19 January 2012. It will not be possible to identify which of these offences were linked to the recent incidents of public disorder.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals she plans to bring forward to tackle public disorder; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [69828]

Nick Herbert: The Government are working closely with the police and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to ensure that they have the powers, tactics and the resources that they need to tackle public disorder on our streets.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs to the public purse of recent public disorder; and if she will make a statement. [69833]

Nick Herbert: There is no estimate yet for the total cost resulting from the disturbances in August 2011.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the cost of policing in respect of public disorder in August 2011. [69255]

Nick Herbert: There is no estimate yet for the total cost of policing resulting from the disturbances in August 2011.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the total cost of damage caused by public disorder in August 2011. [69256]

Damian Green: There is no estimate yet for the total cost of damage resulting from the disturbances in August 2011.

Crime

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* murders and *(b)* sexual offences recorded in each police force area in the last 12 months have not yet resulted in a conviction; and if she will make a statement. [66808]

James Brokenshire: Available homicide data are collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales and have been extracted from the Homicide Index. Table A shows the number of offences recorded as homicide (murder, manslaughter and infanticide) in 2009-10 for which no-one has been convicted. It is not possible to separately identify those offences recorded as murder.

Data are as at 28 September 2010 and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. This is particularly the case for 2009-10 data given the time it can take to bring suspects to trial.

The data include cases for which the principal suspect committed suicide or died before proceedings could be initiated or before proceedings could be concluded; the suspect was found to be insane; all suspects were acquitted and police investigations are continuing; and, no suspects have been charged.

Although provisional homicide data for 2010-11 were published in "Crime in England and Wales" 2010-11 on 14 July 2011, these figures do not include convictions data. A first analysis of 2010-11 homicide data including convictions will be available in January 2012.

Data on police recorded sexual offences are collected by the Home Office. The data relating to police recorded sexual offences for 2010-11 are provided in Table B. Data relating to conviction status are not available.

Data on reported sexual offences which have not yet resulted in convictions are not available centrally. The Ministry of Justice collects data on convictions for sexual offences but these data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. As such, convictions data cannot be linked to police recorded crime data to track individual offences through to their outcome at court.

Table A: Offences[1] currently recorded by the police as homicide[2] not resulting in conviction[3]: police forces in England and Wales, 2009-10[4]

Force	*Total offences*	*Offences with no conviction[3]*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	16	10	63
Bedfordshire	6	6	100
British Transport Police	2	2	100
Cambridgeshire	8	3	38
Cheshire	8	7	88
Cleveland	6	5	83
Cumbria	—	—	—
Derbyshire	2	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	16	15	94
Dorset	5	2	40
Durham	10	8	80
Dyfed Powys	2	—	—
Essex	10	7	70
Gloucestershire	4	1	25
Greater Manchester	35	12	34
Gwent	18	18	100
Hampshire	19	17	89
Hertfordshire	6	5	83
Humberside	13	2	15
Kent	16	16	100
Lancashire	26	11	42
Leicestershire	13	8	62
Lincolnshire	6	5	83
London, City of	2	2	100
Merseyside	21	20	95
Metropolitan Police	120	91	76
Norfolk	7	4	57
North Wales	7	3	43
North Yorkshire	6	6	100
Northamptonshire	5	4	80
Northumbria	14	12	86
Nottinghamshire	15	14	93
South Wales	16	7	44
South Yorkshire	12	8	67
Staffordshire	13	10	77
Suffolk	10	3	30
Surrey	8	7	88
Sussex	13	9	69
Thames Valley	14	13	93
Warwickshire	11	10	91
West Mercia	15	10	67
West Midlands	27	17	63
West Yorkshire	32	17	53
Wiltshire	4	3	75

Table A: Offences[1] currently recorded by the police as homicide[2] not resulting in conviction[3]: police forces in England and Wales, 2009-10[4]

Force	*Total offences*	*Offences with no conviction[3]*	*Proportion (percentage)*
England and Wales	619	430	69

[1] As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences recorded as murder, manslaughter or infanticide.

[3] Includes cases with outcome of: court proceedings pending; suspect found by court to be insane, suspect died/committed suicide before proceedings were initiated or could be concluded; all suspects acquitted; no suspects charged.

[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Table B: Sexual offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales, 2010-11

Force	*Total offences*
Avon and Somerset	1,521
Bedfordshire	442
British Transport Police	720
Cambridgeshire	771
Cheshire	741
Cleveland	562
Cumbria	391
Derbyshire	1,153
Devon and Cornwall	1,695
Dorset	775
Durham	477
Dyfed Powys	405
Essex	1,440
Gloucestershire	531
Greater Manchester	2,881
Gwent	555
Hampshire	2,109
Hertfordshire	653
Humberside	1,263
Kent	1,402
Lancashire	1,505
Leicestershire	1,045
Lincolnshire	718
London, City of	39
Merseyside	1,130
Metropolitan Police	10,230
Norfolk	743
North Wales	786
North Yorkshire	1,090
Northamptonshire	653
Northumbria	591
Nottinghamshire	1,107
South Wales	831
South Yorkshire	906
Staffordshire	1,004
Suffolk	705
Surrey	785
Sussex	1,467
Thames Valley	2,195
Warwickshire	472
West Mercia	1,206
West Midlands	2,707
West Yorkshire	1,970
Wiltshire	610
England and Wales	54,982

Crossbows

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents involving crossbows were recorded by the Police in *(a)* St Helens, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [68908]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not available centrally. Offences involving crossbows cannot be identified in the recorded crime statistics.

Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 933W, on departmental compensation, what steps she is taking to reduce the level of special payments, including compensation to the public, made by her Department and the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible. [69330]

Damian Green: The Home Office is taking active steps to reduce the cost of special payments, which include compensation payments and legal costs, and arise principally from immigration and detention legal challenges.

The UK Border Agency has, for example, set up a Litigation Strategy Board, which meets monthly to review litigation risks, to ensure ownership of significant legal challenges and that appropriate strategies are in place for managing new areas of challenge. The board has driven the implementation of new processes to manage more routine, high volume litigation at lower cost, and early identification of potential litigation risks. It also works to increase awareness of legal risks in policy development and improve the information and guidance available.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69270]

Damian Green: Since May 2010, the Home Office, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies have estimated procurement and purchasing value for money savings in line with the Office of Government Commerce (now the Efficiency and Reform Group, Cabinet Office) methodology.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding she has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by her Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68551]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has allocated £8,923,733 to helplines operated by the Home Department in 2011-12. The following table provides a summary of the amount allocated and the purpose of each helpline.

Helpline	*Purpose of helpline*	*2011-12 total budget (£000)*
UKBA		
Immigration Enquiry Bureau—Croydon Contact Centre	Provides information about requirements regarding permission to stay and settle in the United Kingdom for those subject to immigration control. This Contact Centre also offers a Public Enquiry Office (PEO) appointment booking service for customers who have been unable to book an appointment online	2,404
The Sponsorship and Employers Helpline—Sheffield Contact Centre	Provides information for employers and education providers about sponsorship under the points based system, advice to employers about preventing illegal working and an e-mail service to employers who want to verify the entitlement to work for people awaiting the outcome of an application. The Contact Centre also provides information about Bulgarian and Romanian work permits and accession worker cards	1,176
The Nationality Contact Centre—Liverpool Contact Centre	Provides information about British citizenship. The Contact Centre also answers general enquiries from supported asylum seekers in relation to their weekly cash support, accommodation or emergency cash payments	736
Total 2011-12 UKBA funding		4,316
IPS		
General Register Office First Point of Contact	The General Register Office Advice Line provides advice in respect of birth, marriage and death registrations and certificate issues; services are provided by Identity and Passport Service staff	2,100
The Customer Enquiry Centres (CECs)	Customer Enquiry service provided by Identity and Passport Service staff,	1,800
Total 2011-12 IPS funding		3,900
NFA		
Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre	Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre run by the National Fraud Authority, operates a fraud reporting telephone line as part of its service to collect fraud reports on behalf of the Police	708
Total Home Office funding		8,924

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 811-13W, on departmental work experience, what the beginning and end dates of each internship were; how many weeks each intern worked in the Department; how many hours were worked by each intern per week; whether each intern worked fixed hours; what the recruitment process was for each vacancy; and where the positions were advertised. [69477]

Damian Green: The following table lists the beginning and end dates of each internship; how many weeks each intern worked in the Home Office; how many hours were worked by each intern per week; and whether each intern worked fixed hours.

Internships for sandwich course students are advertised through fair and open competition to universities offering relevant degree courses.

The Fast Stream summer placements were advertised through the Cabinet Office at:

www.faststream.gov.uk

The Windsor Fellowship Programme is advertised by the Cabinet Office at:

www.windsor-fellowship.org

In Annex A we have redacted figures less than five to prevent disclosure of personally sensitive information and the potential identification of small groups or individuals. Supplying these figures would contravene the Department's policy on statistical disclosure control, implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 and the Data Protection Act.

Table A

Start date	*End Date*	*Number of weeks*	*Number of staff*	*Number of hours per week*	*Number of hours per day*
Sandwich students					
26 July 2010	25 June 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
2 August 2010	2 July 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
9 August 2010	9 July 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
6 August 2010	7 July 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
16 August 2010	16 July 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
17 August 2010	16 July 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
23 August 2010	23 July 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24

Table A

Start date	*End Date*	*Number of weeks*	*Number of staff*	*Number of hours per week*	*Number of hours per day*
25 August 2010	23 July 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
15 June 2009	2 October 2009	16	Less than 5	37	7.24
15 June 2009	14 May 2010	48	Less than 5	36	7.12
13 July 2009	11 June 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
13 July 2009	12 July 2011	48	Less than 5	36	7.12
20 July 2009	19 June 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
20 July 2009	20 June 2011	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
13 July 2009	13 June 2010	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
29 July 2009	29 June 2010	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
10 August 2009	10 July 2010	48	Less than 5	36	7.12
17 August 2009	16 July 2010	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
18 August 2009	16 July 2010	48	Less than 5	36	7.12
24 August 2009	23 July 2010	48	Less than 5	37	7.24
1 September 2009	31 July 2010	48	Less than 5	36	7.12
26 October 2009	20 August 2010	43	Less than 5	36	7.12
Graduate Fast Stream Programme					
21 June 2010	30 July 2010	6	Less than 5	36	7.12
21 June 2010	6 August 2010	7	Less than 5	36	7.12
28 June 2010	20 August 2010	8	15	36	7.12
28 June 2010	27 August 2010	9	Less than 5	36	7.12
28 June 2010	10 September 2010	11	Less than 5	36	7.12
5 July 2010	27 August 2010	11	5	36	7.12
19 July 2010	10 September 2010	11	Less than 5	36	7.12

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in her Department as of 1 July 2011. [69518]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not centrally hold data on the number of persons undertaking unpaid work experience. As at 1 July 2011 only paid interns were working in the Department.

Deportation

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of other EU member states normally resident in the Peterborough city council area were not *(a)* in employment, *(b)* looking for employment and *(c)* in education and have been removed by the UK Border Agency in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [68606]

Damian Green: Since the UK Border Agency EU rough sleepers pilot began in March 2010 there have been 39 enforced removals. All those removed had no fixed abode and were not in employment or studying. A further 100 have taken advantage of the reconnection service provided by Peterborough city council and returned to their country of origin voluntarily after being encountered by UK Border Agency and served a "minded to remove" letter.

Detention Centres

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the proposed *(a)* locations and *(b)* operational dates are of the reception and removal centres to be established in Turkey under twinning arrangements with the UK Border Agency; and if she will make a statement. [69681]

Damian Green: Turkey has proposed the seven new Reception, Screening and Application (RSA) centres for asylum seekers and refugees will be near the cities of Ankara, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Izmir, Kayseri, Kirklareli and Van. The proposed sites of the two new removal centres for illegal migrants will be Ankara and Erzurum co-located with the RSA centres. Turkey has yet to finalise all the details regarding construction of the centres, which has not yet commenced, so the precise operational dates are not known, but it is not expected that any will be operational before 2013.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department does not intend to make a statement on this issue at this juncture.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are working on the projects to establish reception and removal centres in Turkey under twinning arrangements. [69682]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has been involved in two EU Twinning Projects on reception and removal centres in Turkey. At the present time UKBA has two staff dedicated to two projects. In addition the UK Border Agency has also provided 15 different short term UKBA staff to support these projects from an expert perspective.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what involvement the UK Border Agency will have in *(a)* training staff and *(b)* managing reception and removal centres to be established in Turkey under twinning arrangements. [69683]

Damian Green: The UK Border along with our Greek (on the removal centres project) and Dutch partners has provided training developed with the Turkish authorities in accordance with the contracts for the respective EU Twinning Projects. The training provided was to the future trainers, staff and managers of the centres. The UK Border Agency will have no involvement in the managing of the reception and removal centres in Turkey.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether those to be detained in reception and removal centres to be established in Turkey under twinning arrangements with the UK Border Agency will include *(a)* families with children and *(b)* unaccompanied minors. [69685]

Damian Green: Illegal migrants including families with children are likely to be within the scope of being detained in the Removal Centres for Illegal Migrants. The reception, screening and accommodation centres for asylum seekers and refugees are not detention facilities and those accommodated there will be free to interact with the local population. Unaccompanied minors in Turkey fall under the responsibility of the Social Service and Child Protection Agency of the Prime Ministry and will not routinely be accommodated in these facilities.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the projects to establish reception and removal centres in Turkey under twinning arrangements with the UK Border Agency have been or will be subject to approval by *(a)* Parliament and *(b)* the European Parliament. [69686]

Damian Green: The participation of the UK Border Agency in these two EU Twinning Projects does not require parliamentary approval.

All candidate countries seeking to join the European Union are eligible to request capacity building projects under the provisions of twinning. As such approval by the European Parliament is not required for each requirements document which is developed by the beneficiary country in consultation with the EU delegation in situ.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum time limit for detention will be in the removal centres to be established in Turkey under a twinning project with the UK Border Agency. [69687]

Damian Green: The maximum time limit for detention in the removal centres will be determined by new national legislation which is currently being drafted by the Turkish authorities before being presented before their Parliament. Full consultation with the member state partner countries of both removal and reception centres Twinning Projects and with the European Commission has been undertaken by Turkey during this process with a view to alignment with the EU law requirements.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what health, education, legal advice and counselling services will be required to be provided by new reception and removal centres established in Turkey under twinning arrangements with the UK Border Agency; and whether any decisions have been taken on the providers of such services. [69688]

Damian Green: New national legislation currently being drafted by the Turkish authorities before being presented before their Parliament is likely to encompass the requirements for health, education, legal advice and counselling services within the reception and removal centres. Full consultation with the member state partner countries of both removal and reception centres Twinning Projects and with the European Commission has been undertaken by Turkey during this process with a view to alignment with the EU law requirements in these areas. However, as far as we are aware the Turkish authorities have made no decisions as to who these providers will be or the anticipated level of provision of these services.

Drugs: Ion Spectrometry Technology

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the distribution of ion spectrometry technology in the detection of drugs and explosive traces; how many such devices have been issued to police forces in the last year; and if she will make a statement. [66809]

James Brokenshire: Equipment for the detection of traces of drugs or explosives is widely used by UK police forces. Such equipment, which includes devices based on ion mobility spectrometry technology, is purchased independently by individual forces. It is not purchased or distributed centrally. There is no requirement for forces to notify a central point of contact when such equipment has been purchased or issued.

European Union

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what third pillar EU measures for which her Department is responsible have not yet been implemented; when they will be implemented; and if she will make a statement. [69469]

James Brokenshire: There are around 80 to 90 Acts currently in force that were adopted before 1 December 2009 under the Police and Criminal Judicial Co-operation chapter (Title VI) of the Treaty on the European Union. This list is subject to change as Acts are repealed and replaced or amended by new instruments. Approximately two thirds of these are the responsibility of the Home Office and a majority have been fully or partially implemented.

Article 10 of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions (Protocol 36) to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to the Treaty on European Union applies to these Acts, under which the UK has the right to opt out (en bloc) from all these measures in 2014 when they will become subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. The UK must decide whether or not to opt out by 31 May 2014. The Government are therefore considering the implementation of the remaining measures in light of the wider process for making that decision. In accordance with the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement on 20 January 2011, Parliament will be kept informed of developments.

Europol

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were in the UK resulting from a Europol operation in each year since Europol became operational; what the offence was in each case; and if she will make a statement. [68475]

Nick Herbert: Europol does not undertake operational activity itself. It acts as a conduit for the secure exchange of information between member states and assists with the co-ordination of investigations when requested by member states. It also provides analytical support at the request of member states.

Any investigation remains the responsibility of the investigating member state and it is therefore not possible to provide information on the number of convictions in the UK resulting from Europol activity in each year since Europol's inception.

Forensic Science Service

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that the closure of the Forensic Science Service does not adversely affect the gathering of forensic evidence. [68490]

Lynne Featherstone: The closure of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) does not affect the gathering of forensic evidence as this is an activity predominantly carried out by police forces to submit for examination and analysis. The continuity of service to the Criminal Justice System remains our primary objective during the wind-down of the FSS.

Government Authorised Exchange Medical Training Initiative

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from consultant doctors on the Government Authorised Exchange Medical Training Initiative (GAE MTI); what discussions her Department has held with the Royal College of Anaesthetists on the contribution of overseas trainees to *(a)* filling gaps, *(b)* reducing the level of locum cover and *(c)* avoiding the cancellation of training activity; how the MTI is regulated; whether she has received reports of any misuse of the initiative; and if she will allow Sri Lankan trainees to come for the two years overseas period their government requires for a consultant appointment. [69781]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to reducing net migration to the United Kingdom. This requires action across all immigration routes of entry. Against that background, the consultation document 'Employment-Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers', published on 9 June, sets out proposed changes to Tier 5. This includes a proposal to cap leave across the Tier 5 Temporary Worker route, which includes Government Authorised Exchange schemes, of which the Medical Training Initiative is one. The purpose of the consultation is to invite views on this proposal. The consultation closes on 9 September.

A decision on the way forward will be assessed in the light of responses to the consultation, including those from the Royal Colleges.

Larne House Residential Detention Facility

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the development costs are for the UK Border Agency's Larne House residential detention facility; and what the estimated annual operating costs for this facility are. [69429]

Damian Green: The contracted development costs for Larne House are £812,173.65 excluding VAT. The final invoice has not yet been received, but the cost has been confirmed by the contractor as within budget.

The annual operating cost for Larne House will be around £1.479 million excluding VAT. The costs include those of the operating contract (including 24 hour healthcare), lease of the building, rates, security and utilities.

Legal Aid Scheme: Reform

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the likely effect of the Government's proposed reforms of civil legal aid on the work of the Sojourner Project; and if she will make a statement. [68798]

Damian Green: We are working closely with the Ministry of Justice to ensure that the needs of those involved in the Sojourner Project are taken into account in the development of the legal aid reform programme. The Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Huntingdon (Mr Djanogly) announced to the Public Bill Committee on the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on 19 July that the Government intend to table an amendment in relation to cases arising under the immigration domestic violence rule, so that they will remain within the scope of civil legal aid.

Licensing

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to review the effectiveness of the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 in ensuring consistent application of licensing powers across the country. [69440]

James Brokenshire: The Licensing Act 2003 gives powers to local authorities to make licensing decisions that reflect the needs of their local communities. Reflecting those needs means that there will be variations between communities. Last summer the Home Office consulted on empowering individuals, families and local communities to shape and determine local licensing. Those proposals are now being taken forward through measures in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Licensing laws

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her proposed exemption from regulation for micro-businesses will include exemption from the late night levy. [68484]

Lynne Featherstone: The late night levy is a power of taxation, not a new regulation. On this basis, the exemptions for micro and start-up businesses will not apply to the late night levy.

Members: Correspondence

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale (Graham Evans) of *(a)* 1 March 2011 and *(b)* 2 June 2011 on behalf of Mrs Andrea Quinton. [69421]

Nick Herbert: A reply has been sent to my hon. Friend.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne North (Catherine McKinell) of 19 April 2011, on the Winsor Review and a Royal Commission on Policing. [68797]

Nick Herbert: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

North Yorkshire Police

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers of each rank and grade were employed by North Yorkshire Police on *(a)* 31 March 2010, *(b)* 30 September 2010 and *(c)* 31 March 2011; and how many she expects to be employed in North Yorkshire at each rank and grade on 31 March (i) 2012, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2014. [69846]

Nick Herbert: The available information shows the number of police officers employed in North Yorkshire police, by rank, as at 31 March 2010, 30 September 2010 and 31 March 2011. Decisions around the size and deployment of the police work force are a matter for chief constables to take locally in conjunction with their police authority and, from next year, their elected police and crime commissioners (PCCs); therefore estimates for the number of police officers for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are not available centrally.

The number of police officers employed in North Yorkshire police, by rank, as at 31 March 2010, 30 September 2010 and 31 March 2011[1]

	ACPO rank	Chief Superintendent	Superintendent	Chief Inspector	Inspector	Sergeant	Constable	Total police officers
2010								
31 March	4	5	10	16	83	250	1.118	1,486
30 September	4	4	10	16	85	207	1.126	1,452
2011								
31 March	3	6	10	18	76	241	1,104	1,458

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures mat have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Parliament Square

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Mayor of London on removal of *(a)* tents and *(b)* other objects located on the pavements of Parliament Square; and if she will make a statement. [69837]

Nick Herbert: The Government continue to work closely with the Greater London Authority, Westminster city council and the Metropolitan Police Service on the measures the Government are bringing forward in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to prevent the erection of tents and to deal with other disruptive activities on Parliament Square in a targeted, proportionate and enforceable way.

Police

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were serving in the London borough of Harrow on 5 April 2011; and if she will make a statement. [68747]

Nick Herbert: The latest available information shows that there were 392 full-time equivalent police officers and 99 full-time equivalent police community support officers serving in the London borough of Harrow as at 31 March 2011.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many North Yorkshire police officers were deployed in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester and *(d)* other places in response to public disorders in August 2011; and how much the police authorities in each of the receiving areas will pay North Yorkshire police for these deployments. [69656]

Nick Herbert: This information is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Police: Ealing

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints her Department has received on the performance of police officers based in the London borough of Ealing in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [69054]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collect such data.

Police: Ports

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to alter the jurisdiction of port police forces. [R] [68622]

Nick Herbert: As I have previously said in correspondence with my hon. Friend, officials at the Home Office and the Department for Transport are exploring a range of potential legislative options to address the issues that she has raised around the jurisdiction of port police forces.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what type testing has been carried out on the super speed camera or TruCam; what plans she has for its future use; and if she will make a statement. [69756]

Nick Herbert: For reasons of commercial confidentiality the Home Office does not comment on individual devices that may or may not be going through the type approval process. All devices submitted to the process undergo tests of their compliance with HO prescribed standards and field tests with the police as to their operational practicality. Once a device has been type approved, it is an operational matter for the police how they use it.

Telephone Hacking

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with the Metropolitan police *(a)* the allocation of (i) staff and (ii) financial resources to Operation Weeting and *(b)* the rate at which the operation is contacting potential victims of telephone hacking. [69424]

Nick Herbert: The resourcing and conduct of the investigation are operational matters for the Metropolitan Police Service. The Prime Minister has told Parliament that he has been assured that Operation Weeting is fully resourced.

Metal Theft

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the risks to the critical national infrastructure from metal thieves. [69809]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office is working with other Government Departments to assess the impact of metal theft on communities, businesses and the national infrastructure, and to develop a range of potential solutions.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tynemouth of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 371W, on metals: sales, what progress she has made in exploring with the Association of Chief Police Officers Conductive Metal Theft Working Group the feasibility of introducing a non-statutory cashless trading model for scrap metal dealers. [69812]

James Brokenshire: Discussions are continuing with the scrap metal trade, the police and other Government Departments to develop a range of potential solutions to tackle the theft of metal.

Warwickshire Police Authority

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to Warwickshire Police Authority in each year since 2005. [69499]

Nick Herbert: The funding provided to Warwickshire for the years 2005-06 to 2011-12 is set out in the following table.

Home Office funding for Warwickshire 2005-06 to 2010-11

	Core Home Office funding (£)
2005-06	30,620,500
2006-07	31,947,346
2007-08	32,748,367
2008-09	33,185,839
2009-10	34,143,978
2010-11	34,361,644
2011-12	35,185,705

These figures do not include grants from the Department for Communities and Local Government or funding relating to counter-terrorism.

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs of administration were of the Warwickshire Police Authority in each year since 2005. [69501]

Nick Herbert: The internal running costs of the Warwickshire Police Authority are not collected centrally. However, these data are available at:

http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/pubscheme2009/Publicationscheme09/whatspendandhow

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 54715 tabled on 3 May 2011 for answer on 9 May 2011 on categorisation of police functions. [68478]

James Brokenshire: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 654W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which elements of the Royal Marines are deployed on operations in Afghanistan. [68829]

Nick Harvey: I refer the right hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) on 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 90-93WS.

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the socio-economic effects of his recent announcement on RAF basing. [68918]

Dr Fox: In my written ministerial statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 60-70WS, I set out our strategic long-term direction on Defence basing across the United Kingdom. I said we

> "recognised that Defence decisions have broader regional, economic and social consequences"

and these formed part of the wider Government consideration.

Comprehensive planning work is now under way to assess in detail the likely socio-economic effects on affected communities across the United Kingdom such as on local schools and housing. This will involve appropriate and necessary engagement with partners such as the relevant local authorities, devolved Administrations, and other Government Departments and agencies. We intend to base our armed forces in a way that is sensitive to economic and social pressures but is consistent with the needs of Defence, our people, and their families.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of implementation of the proposals contained in the Strategic Defence and Security Review on the *(a)* size, *(b)* capability and *(c)* deployability of 3 Commando Brigade. [68827]

Nick Harvey: The reductions in naval manpower announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will include a reduction of around 650 in the Royal Marines' headcount. The Royal Marines' 3 Commando Brigade will provide a key element of our high readiness response force. With the Royal Navy's amphibious shipping, 3 Commando Brigade will have strategic reach and will be able to land and sustain from the sea a commando group of up to 1,800 personnel, together with protective vehicles and other equipment. Other elements of the Royal Marines will continue to undertake a wide range of tasks including protecting the nuclear deterrent and contributing to operations against piracy in the Indian Ocean.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who will lead 3 Commando Brigade following implementation of the proposals in the Strategic Defence and Security Review; [68828]

(2) what the current state of readiness is of 3 Commando Brigade. [68877]

Nick Harvey: We do not disclose specific readiness levels of our units, but by implementing the proposals set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines will continue to provide an agile and capable landing force, led by a Brigadier, based around a Lead Commando Group of up to 1,800 personnel plus enablers.

Astute Class Submarines

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has contingency plans in place for the independence relocation of Astute-class submarines in the event of the devolution of defence policy in Scotland. [69465]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence is not spending any of its time or resources planning for the hypothetical situation of an independent Scotland.

Defence Equipment and Support: Recruitment

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of recruitment and retention rates for Defence Equipment and Support staff based in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Bristol. [69386][1]

Mr Robathan: Defence Equipment and Support currently employs around 100 civilian staff in Glasgow and around 5,500 civilian staff at its headquarters in Bristol. The significant difference in numbers means that direct comparisons cannot readily be made. In the year to July 2011, about 2.5% of Bristol staff and about 1% of Glasgow staff left through retirement or resignation compared with around 4.5% for Defence Equipment and Support as a whole.

The restrictions on recruitment across the whole of the Ministry of Defence mean that there has only been external recruitment into critical or specialised posts. In the year to July 2011, we recruited around 150 new staff in Bristol and none in Glasgow.

Official Hospitality

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget his Department plans to allocate to *(a)* entertainment and *(b)* the purchase of alcohol in each of the next three years. [67085]

Mr Robathan: We use official entertainment to pursue UK security policy interests, facilitate a wider public understanding of the armed forces, and enhance professional contacts within the UK and with other nations. Expenditure on official entertainment must be modest and is incurred according to business need. Expenditure has shown a significant reduction over the past few years, as illustrated in the following table:

	£ million
1997-98	5.0
1998-99	5.6
1999-2000	5.5
2000-01	6.0
2001-02	7.2
2002-03	7.3
2003-04	8.0
2004-05	6.5
2005-06	5.4

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[1] *[Official Report, 10 October 2011, Vol. 533, c. 1MC.]*

	£ million
2006-07	4.3
2007-08	4.2
2008-09	4.3
2009-10	3.8
2010-11	1.8

While current planned annual expenditure stands at some £3 million over the next three years, we expect actual expenditure to remain low as we continue to restrain this business activity.

There is no separate forecast for alcohol. The provision of alcohol at public expense must be in moderation and the circumstances in which alcohol may be offered is constrained.

Departmental Assets

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a data standard is used to identify his Department's assets; and if he will publish any such standard. [68523]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence uses data standards to identify both its non-current assets, formerly referred to as fixed assets, and its inventory assets. This information is contained within Joint Services Publications (JSPs) 472 (Financial Accounting and Reporting Manual) and 886 (Inventory Management), which are available on the internet, at the following addresses:

JSP 472—Annex 8

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinanceandProcurementPublications/FinancialJSPs/Jsp472ResourceAccountsPolicyManual.htm

JSP 886—Volume 2 Inventory Management Part 6—Financial Accounting for Inventory—Page 8

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/188EDF70-6F1E-48FE-A24C-C304698FC270/0/JSP886_Vol2_Pt6_FinancialAcc091209 V1_2.pdf

Freedom of Information Requests

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Information Commissioner's Office on steps to improve his Department's performance in responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [69773]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), has not discussed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Permanent Under-Secretary met the Information Commissioner on 22 June 2011 having previously signed an undertaking to improve the MOD's performance in dealing with requests for information under FOIA. The undertaking is available on the ICO website at the following address:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/what_we_cover/promoting_openness/~/media/documents/library/Freedom_of_Information/Notices/mod_foi_undertaking.ashx

Defence Transformation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-62, on defence transformation, what he expects the ratio of staff of his Department to full-time military personnel to be after the implementation of his proposed changes. [68486]

Dr Fox: The ratio of Ministry of Defence civilian staff to full time trained service personnel in 2010, and expected ratios for 2015 and 2020 are as follows:

	Ratio of civilian to service personnel
2010	1:2.1
2015	1:2.6
2020	1:2.7

Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62989]

Dr Fox: This information is not held in the format requested for all the years. Available information on the provision of official cars for Defence Ministers is as follows:

Financial year	*Car cost (£)*	*Car numbers*
2000-01	191,000	[1]—
2001-02	192,500	[1]—
2002-03	209,000	[1]—
2003-04	142,000	[1]—
2004-05	142,000	[1]—
2005-06	[1]—	[1]—
2006-07	[1]—	[1]—
2007-08	[1]—	[1]—
2008-09	290,100	[2]5
2009-10	324,433	[2]5
2010-11	[3]171,041	[4]0

[1] Not recorded.

[2] Four Ministry of Defence (MOD) vehicles and one provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

[3] This includes £39,419 for ministerial car services provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

[4] The Secretary of State is driven and protected by the Metropolitan Police. Junior Defence Ministers use a central MOD car pool that provides a service to them and to senior military officers and officials working in Main Building.

We do not collect information on individual ministerial car journeys and cannot therefore make estimates of their average cost.

To reduce costs, the junior Defence Ministers have given up their cars with a dedicated driver and now share pool cars. As a further savings measure, they will use public transport instead of a car where practicable.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69276]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 615-16W, to the hon. Member for Southport (John Pugh). He said that the Government had announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

> a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;
>
> radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across government; and
>
> the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management;

and that, in result, Departments would no longer be required to report against the previous Government's efficiency target.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010-11. Ministry of Defence (MOD) savings in the relevant categories were included in the overall figure. The MOD also spends substantial amounts on procuring and purchasing goods and services that are not covered by the Efficiency and Reform Group's regime, particularly the acquisition of military capability. The MOD does not use a set method for estimating savings to the Defence budget from changes to these activities.

This impact was assessed using methodologies as shown in the following table. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/Calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for Department Ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009-10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other Professional Services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown commercial	Government have renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in memoranda of understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.
Contingent Labour	Government has significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009-10.
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010-11 with that for 2009-10.
Centralising procurement	Government have started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against an 2009-10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.
ICT	We implemented: a) a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and b) a review of all ongoing ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010-11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.

Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/Calculation*
Major projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010-11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We have halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million Identity Cards—£50 million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million Whole Farm—£5 million. We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures, that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects related negotiations
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry.

Regulation: Guidance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what process his Department follows for the production of regulatory guidance; and how many officials of his Department were involved in the production of such guidance on the last date for which figures are available. [67208]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence regularly produces guidance on aspects of legislation which affect the armed forces to ensure that users can be confident they are complying with the law. Such guidance is produced following detailed consultation with interested parties so that it is comprehensive and meets user needs.

Figures are not available on the number of officials involved in the production of such guidance. However, this would not be their sole responsibility as officials would generally undertake this task as part of their wider duties.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69505]

Mr Robathan: We offer a number of summer diversity internships for undergraduates each year. Full information on this scheme is at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/faststream

The Ministry of Defence does not offer opportunities to undertake unpaid work. Work experience placements are generally short term, most commonly during half term and school holidays, for year 10 and 11 students, college students (17 to 19 years of age) and undergraduates. Information on the numbers of work experience placements offered each year is not held centrally.

European Defence Agency: Manpower

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on *(a)* the number of staff of the European Defence Agency, *(b)* their nationality and *(c)* their grade in each year since it became operational; and if he will make a statement. [68481]

Mr George Howarth: The Ministry of Defence does not hold employee information for the European Defence Agency (EDA) but the details can be obtained from the agency's financial reports which are published on their website, at the following address:

http://www.eda.europa.eu/Documents

The EDA do not, however, release information on the nationality of their employees.

The agency is comprised of three categories of staff: Temporary Agents (TA) who are paid fully by the agency; Seconded National Experts (SNE), whose salary is paid by the parent nation, and their daily allowance by EDA; and Contract Agents (CA), who are not part of the Staff Establishment Plan, but are paid for by the EDA.

At present, the EDA employs 122 members of staff of which the UK footprint is currently nine TAs and one SNE.

The UK successfully secured a freeze on the agency's budget for 2011 and the agency has proposed no further increase for 2012.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the Eurofigher Typhoon aircraft will be based; and if he will make a statement. [68921]

Peter Luff: Following the outcome of the Basing review which the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced to Parliament on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, Typhoon aircraft will move from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth. Typhoon aircraft will also continue to be based at RAF Coningsby.

Ex-servicemen: Identity Cards

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has considered an identity card scheme for veterans; and if he will place in the Library papers relating to plans for any such scheme. [69026]

Mr Robathan: A veteran's identity card was considered by the Task Force on the Military Covenant led by Professor Hew Strachan, who recommended the introduction of a Veterans Privilege Card. The Government's response to this report was published on 16 May 2011, and we announced that will launch a veterans' card which will allow access to commercial discounts and privileges both locally and nationally. This will be linked to the renewal of the Defence Discount Scheme next year.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the veterans lapel badge scheme in each year since its inception; [69023]

(2) how many veterans lapel badges have been issued under the veterans lapel badge scheme in each region in each year since the scheme's inception. [69024]

Mr Robathan: The following table details the cost to the Ministry of Defence of procuring the veterans' lapel badge since its inception.

Financial year	*Cost (£000)*
2004-05	39
2005-06	0
2006-07	275
2007-08	215
2008-09	184
2009-10	0
2010-11	66
2011-12	0

Notes:
1. Figure for financial year 2011-12 is as at 16 August 2011.
2. Rounding to the nearest thousand has been applied to all figures.
3. The figures do not include staff or postage and packing costs.

Information about the number of veterans' lapel badges by region is not held. As at 27 July 2011, 846,093 veterans' lapel badges have been issued to former members of the armed forces and war widows since the scheme's inception.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans for an award for the spouses of veterans; and if he will make a statement. [69025]

Mr Robathan: The partners of both serving and former service personnel continue to have my deepest respect. They are too often overlooked even though they provide invaluable support and endure demands beyond those encountered by the rest of society. None the less, we have no plans to award formal recognition. Medals are awarded for gallantry, long service, service on qualifying operations, and commemorative purposes. There are no plans to extend eligibility to partners, beyond those medals already awarded posthumously.

Ex-servicemen: Northern Ireland

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken and what plans it has to support veterans who have *(a)* served in Northern Ireland and *(b)* been affected by terrorism linked to Northern Ireland. [69153]

Mr Robathan: Former members of the armed forces with illness or conditions caused by service in Northern Ireland and elsewhere receive financial support through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or the War Pensions Scheme. The Veterans' Welfare Service offers advice to all war pensioners and AFCS recipients and their families for as long as they need it.

Those who served in the Ulster Defence Regiment or the Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service) and who live in Northern Ireland are able to draw on the Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service) Aftercare Service, funded by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), which provides a one-stop shop for accessing medical and welfare support.

The MOD is committed to good health and well-being for its personnel both in service and in dealing with any consequences of service once they have left. MOD officials work very closely with the UK Health Departments on issues relating to support to serving and former service personnel, in particular through the Partnership Board which brings together senior officials and medical experts in the MOD and the four UK Health Departments.

Ex-servicemen: Sleeping Rough

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of people with an armed forces background who have been sleeping rough in each year since 2000; and what proportion of the total number of rough sleepers in each such year that figure represents. [69155]

Mr Robathan: Statistics on the number of people with an armed forces background who have been rough sleeping in the UK are not available. The CHAIN (Combined Homelessness and Information Network) survey funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government has collected data from the London homeless population over the last three financial years. Their statistics show that 2.1%, representing 36 individuals, of those seen rough sleeping in London between 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 had previously served in HM armed forces. This compares with 3%, or 57 individuals last financial year, and 4% in 2008-09. We will maintain our relationships with voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure we continue to address the issue of veterans' homelessness.

Medals

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 867W, on medals, how often the Polar Medal Assessment Committee meets; and by what means recommendations of suitable recipients of the medal are made to it. [69430]

Mr Robathan: The Polar Medal Assessment Committee meets annually.

Recommendations for suitable recipients for the medal are made in accordance with the revised Polar Medal Royal Warrant as published on 14 September 1998 in the *London Gazette*.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many British helicopter pilots who have received training under the European Defence Agency's Helicopter Initiative have subsequently been deployed in combat roles; and if he will make a statement; [68477]

(2) how many British helicopter pilots have received training under the European Defence Agency's Helicopter Initiative; and if he will make a statement. [68480]

Mr George Howarth: To date, 12 UK helicopter crews have participated in the European Defence Agency (EDA) sponsored helicopter training exercises. These exercises have involved more than 100 UK personnel, including ground crew, and the intention is to deploy them in theatres of operations as part of the normal national rotational cycles. Specific information on the deployment of UK helicopter pilots who have trained through the EDA Helicopter Initiative is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The EDA do not hold records on the nationality of individuals trained through the initiative, and, therefore the only way to gain the information would be to track individual pilots and seek authorisation for release of information regarding subsequent deployment.

Military Aircraft

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints his Department has received from each parliamentary constituency in respect of low-flying military aircraft in each of the last 10 years. [67123]

Mr Robathan: The data are not held in the format requested. Complaints about military low flying are recorded by the low flying area in which they occur. Data on the amount of low flying conducted, and the number of complaints received, is published annually to Parliament in "The Pattern of Military Low Flying across the UK". Since 2009-10 the publication has been retitled as "Military Low Flying in the United Kingdom statistical appendix."

Prior to 2006-07, the published figure for complaints was an overall total; however, the complaints database has been analysed to provide figures for each Low Flying Area (LFA) and Tactical Training Area (TTA) since 2004-05. These figures are given in the following tables.

Low Flying Area

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
LFA 1	452	517	516	432	520	561	640
LFA 2	648	684	599	471	360	396	409
LFA 3	21	10	18	7	10	8	19
LFA 4	273	308	384	230	293	430	183
LFA 5	437	289	563	377	393	435	323
LFA 6	261	262	197	201	216	258	195
LFA 7	483	426	455	363	252	305	269
LFA 8	96	87	104	90	77	86	102
LFA 9	175	234	233	183	289	244	262
LFA 10	141	149	141	93	83	116	85
LFA 11	365	342	317	263	179	237	190
LFA 12	112	91	99	65	97	67	59
LFA 13	11	15	32	33	21	31	17
LFA 14	380	479	459	498	283	261	219
LFA 16	109	125	161	145	114	98	107
LFA 17	226	159	173	160	112	135	115
LFA 18	134	162	103	106	99	226	193
LFA 19[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	105	78	27

[1] Northern Ireland (LFA 19) has only been included in the UK Low flying system since the termination of Op Banner; complaint figures have therefore been supplied from 1 August 2008, as flying prior to this was largely deemed to be operational rather than training.

Tactical Training Area

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
TTA 7T	20	9	3	6	8	2	7
TTA 14T	12	23	10	8	6	4	2
TTA 20T	151	117	55	29	15	55	23

Military Aircraft: Farmers Compensation

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid in compensation to farmers in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales for livestock losses attributable to low-flying military aircraft in each year since 2004. [67122]

Mr Robathan: Compensation including legal costs paid for livestock losses attributable to low-flying military aircraft in England, Scotland and Wales in each year since 2004 is provided in the following table:

£

	England	Scotland	Wales
2004	190,614	41,854	207,325
2005	311,192	13,762	75,426
2006	203,233	33,619	24,902
2007	179,570	7,458	70,546
2008	204,899	10,487	67,827
2009	204,887	6,468	11,265
2010	100,593	3,261	21,845

The figures represent payments in respect of all claims which relate to loss of or injury to animals; the claims database does not record whether the claimants are farmers.

Military Bases: Security

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to consult on potential changes in high-level security policy and requirements in civil policing of military establishments; and what the timetable is for any consultation. [67306]

Mr Robathan: A consultation process in respect of proposed adjustments to some specific guarding and civil policing policies and requirements began on 5 July. Responses from the relevant staff associations and trade unions have been sought by 16 August 2011.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the conduct of five-yearly defence reviews; and if he will make a statement. [68919]

Dr Fox: As we set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, we are committed to undertake such reviews every five years. The next review is due in 2015.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 643, on defence transformation, whether personnel serving in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Libya will be affected by the planned reduction in Army personnel by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [68920]

Mr Robathan: Personnel who are on combat operations that qualify for the operational allowance (OA) on 1 September 2011, or are within six months of deploying on an OA earning deployment, or on post operational leave (POL) or accrued rest and recuperation will not be selected for redundancy unless they have volunteered.

It is too early to say if personnel currently serving in Afghanistan and Libya will be affected by the further reductions in Army personnel by 2020. For future redundancy tranches, personnel on combat operations that qualify for the OA on the date redundancy notifications are made to individuals, or are within six months of deploying on an OA earning deployment, or on POL or accrued rest and recuperation will not be selected for redundancy unless they have volunteered.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 643-6WS, on defence transformation, whether he has any plans for the reinstatement of gap year commissions. [69532]

Mr Robathan: There are no current plans to re-introduce the gap year commission programme.

Trident

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the cost of replacing Trident. [69057]

Nick Harvey: As was explained in the Parliamentary Report "The United Kingdom's Future Nuclear Deterrent: The Submarine Initial Gate" published in May 2011, we assess that the cost of replacing Trident is within the 2006 White Paper estimate of £15 billion to £20 billion at 2006-07 prices.

HEALTH

Abortion

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy development his Department is undertaking on abortion policy; and what his policy is on the provision of independent counselling for women having an abortion. [68839]

Anne Milton: The Department plans to publish a sexual health policy document in autumn this year. The document will set sexual health in the context of health reform and the proposed new commissioning arrangements and will promote the evidence base for improving sexual health, including reducing the number of abortions.

We are looking to strengthen existing arrangements to offer all women considering an abortion access to independent counselling provided by appropriately qualified individuals. We are drawing up proposals and will consult on the proposals later this year.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for alcohol-related illnesses in *(a)* London and *(b)* the area covered by NHS East London and the City. [69208]

Anne Milton: The information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table provides the number of finished admission episodes which are estimated to be alcohol related for the London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area of residence and the primary care trusts (PCTs) of residences within the London SHA area for the year 2009-10.

Statistics provided are correct as at 25 July 2011.

Number of finished admission episodes which are estimated to be alcohol-related[1] for London SHA of residence and PCTs of residence within London SHA[2,3] 2009-10[4]: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

SHA/PCT of residence	*Alcohol related admissions*
London SHA	127,509
Barking and Dagenham	3,279
Barnet	5,379
Bexley	3,415
Brent Teaching	4,794
Bromley	5,368
Camden	3,495
City and Hackney Teaching	3,576
Croydon	6,071
Ealing	6,655
Enfield	4,878
Greenwich Teaching	3,258
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,152
Haringey Teaching	3,854
Harrow	3,544
Havering	4,545
Hillingdon	5,399
Hounslow	4,513
Islington	3,705
Kensington and Chelsea	2,235
Kingston	2,344
Lambeth	3,824
Lewisham	4,065
Newham	4,632
Redbridge	4,456
Richmond and Twickenham	2,552
Southwark	3,665
Sutton and Merton	6,135
Tower Hamlets	2,979
Waltham Forest	4,482
Wandsworth	3,812
Westminster	3,447

[1] Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at:

http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf

The application of the NWPHO methodology has recently been updated and is now available directly from Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES). Information about episodes estimated to be alcohol related may be slightly different from previously published data.

[2] PCT/SHA data quality

In July 2006, the NHS reorganised SHAs and PCTs in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years. Data have been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided.

[3] SHA/PCT/local authority of residence

The SHA, PCT or local authority (UK) containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another area for treatment.

[4] Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Note:

Data quality: HESs are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes his Department have made to the number of alcohol-related *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics record since 2002-03. [69432]

Anne Milton: In 2002-03, Hospital Episode Statistics data included information for up to 14 diagnoses (one primary and 13 secondary) and since 2007-08 it has included information for up to 20 diagnoses (one primary and 19 secondary). This change applied to the whole Hospital Episode Statistics data set. An alcohol-related diagnosis can appear in any of these diagnosis fields.

Alcoholic Drinks: Yorkshire and the Humber

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of alcohol-related admissions *in (a)* Harrogate and District area and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [69450]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on the number of finished admission episodes estimated to be wholly, or partially, alcohol-related for Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA), North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Harrogate Local Authority (LA) for 2009-10 has been provided in the following table. Data relating to costs are not held centrally.

Number of finished admission episodes estimated to be alcohol-related for Yorkshire and the Humber SHA, North Yorkshire and York PCT and Harrogate LA 2009-10: Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Wholly attributable to alcohol	*Wholly or partly attributable total*
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA of residence	26,685	105,527
North Yorkshire and York PCT	3,119	14,808
Harrogate and district LA	754	3,245

Notes:

1. Alcohol-related admissions: The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at:
www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf
The application of the NWPHO methodology has recently been updated and is now available directly from HES. As such, information about episodes estimated to be alcohol related may be slightly different from previously published data. These data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.
2. SHA/PCT/LA of residence: The SHA or LA of residence is that containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where patients were treated as they may have travelled to another area for treatment. The number of admission episodes provided for the Yorkshire and the Humber SHA has been obtained by summing the admission episodes for all PCTs within Yorkshire and the Humber SHA. These are: Barnsley PCT; Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT; Calderdale PCT; Doncaster PCT; East Riding of Yorkshire PCT; Hull Teaching PCT; Kirklees PCT; Leeds PCT; North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus; North Lincolnshire PCT; North Yorkshire and York PCT; Rotherham PCT; Sheffield PCT; Wakefield District PCT.
3. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
4. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Ambulance Services

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future of local ambulance stations. [69373]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not have any plans to change the future of local ambulance stations. The Department expects each ambulance service to determine locally how best to manage its stations, which take into account the local geographic area, mix and size of fleet and information on demand management.

Autism: Health Services

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing a quality standard in respect of autism in children. [69717]

Paul Burstow: The National Quality Board launched, on 15 August, an engagement exercise on the library of NICE Quality Standard NHS health care topics. As part of this exercise a proposed library of topics has been published and comments are invited, including comments on the omission or inclusion of certain topics. Within this proposed library of topics for Quality Standards "Autism (adults)" and "Autism (children and young people)" are included. The closing date for this consultation is 14 October 2011. Full details of the consultation and how to submit comments can be found at:

http://www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/NQBEngagement.jsp

Autism: Training

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking as part of his Department's proposed health and development review to ensure that health visitors have received training on autism to enable them to identify early signs of the condition. [69572]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of health visitor training is the responsibility of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

As the independent regulatory body, responsible for quality standards in education and practice, the NMC is committed to ensuring high quality patient care is delivered by high quality health professionals.

In order to achieve the best possible outcomes for training in the identification of autism, for both staff and patients alike the NMC works closely with the higher education sector, service providers and healthcare professionals to ensure their educational programmes produce professionals that have the skills and behaviours required to diagnose the early signs of autism.

To understand child development and recognise when development is outside of the normal range, health visitors are trained to use tools and checklists to recognise variations that may indicate autism.

The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15, "A Call to Action": sets out the Department's vision to improve the quality of health visiting services for children and families.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which body will manage the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund when strategic health authorities are abolished; and if he will make a statement. [68628]

Paul Burstow: Arrangements from 1 April 2012 and beyond will be the subject of discussions between the Department and the shadow National Health Service Commissioning Board.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for funds allocated to strategic health authorities through the Cancer Drugs Fund which are not spent at the end of each year that the fund operates. [68648]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to making £200 million available to the national health service for each of the three years of the Cancer Drugs Fund's operation. These funds are available now to enable patients to access the additional cancer drugs their doctors recommend and we are not planning on any other uses for these funds.

The Department expects strategic health authorities to put plans in place to fund cancer drugs using their appropriate weighted capitation share of the £200 million fund to ensure patients get access to the drugs they need. This is set out in "Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12".

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Prescription Drugs

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to encourage pharmacists to visit care homes for older people for the purposes of improving knowledge and understanding of medication management. [68808]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to the continuous improvement of the quality of services, including through greater involvement of independent and voluntary providers. While some community pharmacists already provide advisory services to care homes, the Department has commissioned a piece of work between the care home sector, Royal Colleges, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and other key organisations to look at finding solutions to improve the quality of use of medicines in care homes. We look forward to seeing the output to this important collaborative work, which is due to conclude by the end of the year.

Carers: Young People

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of hospitals have made provision to *(a)* identify and *(b)* support young carers in their admission and discharge procedures. [69016]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally. However, a whole-family approach in planning services is particularly relevant where young carers are involved. Service users and carers of all ages can benefit from an integrated and holistic approach to providing personalised care and support. Such an approach helps to ensure that admission and discharge plans identify and assess the needs of patients who are parents so they do not have to rely on their children to provide care.

"Carers and Personalisation—improving outcomes" which the Department of Health published in November 2010, includes good practice guidance on whole family approaches. A copy has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122076

The Department also supported the development of "Carers as partners in hospital discharge", published by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services in February 2010, which brought together key policy and good practice materials to inform hospital discharge processes. The guidance recognises the importance of the impact of hospital discharge on carers including young carers.

The Department for Education is also supporting the Children's Society and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers to encourage 'whole family' approaches in supporting young carers.

Dementia

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department plans to put in place to assist people in *(a)* diagnosing dementia and *(b)* obtaining information and advice about the condition. [69372]

Paul Burstow: Achieving good-quality early diagnosis and intervention for all is one of the Government's four priorities in implementing the National Dementia Strategy. The Department undertook a public awareness campaign in the North West and Yorkshire and Humber national health service regions in March 2011, encouraging people to seek a diagnosis for dementia where they have concerns. The campaign included leaflets available to the general public on the early signs and symptoms of dementia. Consideration is currently being given to rolling out the awareness campaign on a national basis.

Dental Services

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made on his proposed reforms of NHS dentistry; and if he will make a statement. [69194]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government said in the coalition agreement they would replace the existing dental contract with one based on registration, capitation and quality, designed to increase access and promote oral health. The Government made a commitment to establishing pilots to support the development of the new national contract. Pilots are starting over this summer.

Dental Services: North West England

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental implants were preformed in the NHS North West heath authority area by *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* the private sector in each of the last three years; how many such patients were aged under 18; and if he will make a statement on the criteria for eligibility for dental implants. [68906]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

The "Adult Dental Health Survey" (ADHS) 2009—Summary report and thematic series' contains limited information on dental implants.

Table 4.4.5 of theme 4 of the thematic series includes the percentage of adults with at least one dental implant. Information is available by strategic health authority but, due to the limitations of the sample size, is not available at a lower level. The information does not differentiate between national health service and private work. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The report and thematic series are also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalsurveyfullreport09

The 2009 ADHS is the fifth in a series of national dental surveys that have been carried out every decade since 1968. Information is, therefore, not available for consecutive years.

Criteria for eligibility for NHS dental implants are determined by the NHS locally.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68756]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental records show that we received 2,122 items of correspondence from hon. Members in June 2011. This figure includes both written and electronic correspondence. This figure represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team only.

Disclosure of Information

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's *(a)* policy is and *(b)* procedures are in relation to whistleblowers. [68871]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to achieving the highest possible standards of service and ethical standards in public life.

The Department's whistleblowing policy was revised in May 2009 and sets out the process for handling whistleblowing within the Department, and also for the handling of similar types of concerns, raised with the Department, about external organisations or individuals.

A copy of the policy has been placed in the Library.

Press Officers

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers his Department employed on *(a)* 1 February and *(b)* 1 April 2011. [69145]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

However, as at the end of March 2011, the Department's media centre employed 33 full-time press officers and one part-time press officer, equating to 33.73 full-time equivalent press officers.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68549]

Mr Simon Burns: The Departments Communication Directorate either runs or promotes the call centres contained in the following table.

Call Centre	*Purpose of line*	*Budget (£)*[1]
Carers Direct	Advice and support line for carers	£1,660,000
Change4Life	Offers publications, advice and registration to the Change4Life programme	£220,000
DH Order Line	Publication order line	£120,000[2]
Drink, Drugs and Sexual Health	Advice line for adults on drink, drugs and sexual health	£1,000,000
European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)	Offers an ordering and replacement service as well as advice on the EHIC	£1,600,000[2]
Healthy Start	Supports the provision of milk and fruit and vegetable vouchers	£1,150,000[2]
National Breastfeeding Helpline	Offers advice and support on breast feeding	£300,000
NHS Careers	Offers advice and publications for potential recruits, returners and existing NHS staff	£890,000
Tobacco	Offers advice and support on smoking cessation	£1,380,000
Worth talking about	Sexual health advice for teenagers	£800,000

[1] All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000

[2] Estimated budget (the budget for the call centre is part of a wider contract)

Notes:

1. As it not always possible to anticipate the demand for the services provided by the above call centres, final spend is often lower than the budget allowed.
2. The budget allowed may include some non-phone line costs such as staff training, data management and fulfilment.
3. The budget allowed will also include some non-voice help offered by the call centre such as text phone use, web chat and e-mail handling.
4. The chart is based on call centres rather than individual phone lines. Most call centres run multiple phone numbers to allow for campaign measurement

The Department does not collect information on the telephone numbers used by national health service organisations. Information about telephone services for these bodies is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

The Department also supports a range of voluntary, charitable and other organisations to provide services relating to health and healthy living. Some of these organisations may include telephone help lines as part of their services. It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to identify individual projects with telephone services and their budgets.

Overseas Visits

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* staff and *(c)* special advisers in his Department between (i) May 2006 and June 2007 and (ii) June 2009 and May 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit. [68361]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Details of all ministerial overseas travel is published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. The latest data up to the end of March 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69508]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department actively encourages teams and directorates to offer work experience opportunities and is committed to contributing to the development of students by providing work experience placements. A copy of the Department's work experience policy has been placed in the Library.

In the main, arrangements for unpaid work experience, interns and others are made by local business units within the Department. Information on all such placements is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate costs to collect all the information requested.

In line with our corporate social responsibility agenda, the Department has developed the Building Bridges Programme. The programme provides young people from our local areas with opportunities to experience life in the civil service. This is in order to support and educate the next generation of active citizens and to increase their awareness of government policy-making processes through job shadowing and mentoring. As at 1 July 2011, there were three students placed within the Department by the Building Bridges initiative, a total of eight individuals having been placed in the past two years to date.

Dermatology: General Practitioners

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training general practitioners are required to have on dermatology at the point of qualification; and whether he plans to request training deaneries to review this requirement with a view to increasing it. [69032]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of medical training is the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC) which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the United Kingdom.

The GMC is committed to ensuring that healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

The content of the general practitioner (GP) training curriculum is developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners for approval by the GMC. The GP curriculum includes a section on skin problems. Doctors completing GP training are assessed against all elements in the GP curriculum and should be competent to deliver care against all the competencies described.

While it is not practicable or desirable for the Government to prescribe the exact training that any individual doctor will receive we are, of course, aware of the need to ensure perceived areas of weakness in training curricula are addressed. For that reason, we are liaising with the GMC and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges about how best to ensure curricula do meet requirements. The Department has also provided a supporting role in the development of the standards contained in "Quality Standards for Dermatology—Providing the right care for people with skin conditions" recently initiated by the British Association of Dermatologists.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of a GP's workload that is dermatology-related; and if he will make a statement. [69033]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not given formal consideration to the proportion of a general practitioner's (GP's) work load that is dermatology related.

We understand from "Skin Conditions in the UK: a Health Care Needs Assessment", published by the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, University of Nottingham (2009), that in 2006 around 24% of the population in England and Wales visited their GP with a skin problem, and that skin conditions are the most frequent reason for people to consult their GP with a new problem.

Disability: Children

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to simplifying the way parents of disabled children arrange care. [67595]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently two broad routes for the arrangement of short breaks care for the parents and carers of disabled children. Firstly, the local authority arranges short breaks care for a family based on their assessment of family need and the availability of resources. Secondly, parents and carers can be provided with a direct payment, a cash payment in lieu of short breaks services, which enables them to arrange their own care.

This Government are committed to improving access to direct payments for short breaks services. We will test the best ways to support parents to access direct payments through our new Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper pathfinders, which will start operating in September of this year.

Local authorities may have their own arrangements to simplify access to short breaks, including through internet booking systems and 'local offers' where parents can access certain services without assessment.

Junior Doctors

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to support junior doctors starting work in hospitals in August 2011. [68450]

Anne Milton: The Department recognises the importance of effective induction for junior doctors as they start work in hospitals. Responsibility for induction lies with local employers supported by the postgraduate deaneries. NHS Employers also provides an annual publication to introduce all new medical graduates to the national health service.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in response to the report of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the potential dangers of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment. [69808]

Anne Milton: United Kingdom policy is that mobile telephones, Wi-Fi and base stations are expected to comply with the 1998 International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure to electromagnetic fields. Along with other member states, the UK supports European Council Recommendation EC 519/1999 on limiting exposures to electromagnetic fields. This recommendation incorporates the 1998 ICNIRP guidelines.

Artificial Trans-fatty Acids

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of transfats in food. [68773]

Anne Milton: As part of the Public Health Responsibility Deal, the Department is working in partnership with United Kingdom food businesses to remove artificial trans fatty acids (TFA), from the few foods that still contain them.

Businesses are pledging to remove artificial TFA from products by the end of 2011. They will achieve this by removing partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (p-HVO) and limiting the levels of artificial TFA in oils and fats used as ingredients or in preparing foods (e.g. frying oils) to a maximum of 2%.

This voluntary action will help to ensure that intakes of trans fats remain low, and give consumers confidence that artificial trans fats will not be added to foods in the future.

General Practitioners

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* female and *(b)* male GPs have left the national health service in the last 12 months. [68800]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested will be available following publication of the NHS Information Centre General Practice Staff Census in March 2012.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there were per head of the population in each primary care trust in *(a)* Wiltshire, *(b)* West Mercia and *(c)* Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [68801]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of general practitioners (GPs) per head of population in Wiltshire, West Mercia and Greater Manchester between 2006 and 2010 is shown in the following tables.

	2006		*2007*		*2008*	
	GPs[2] headcount	*GPs[2] headcount per 100,000 population*	*GPs[2] headcount*	*GPs[2] headcount per 100,000 population*	*GPs[2] headcount*	*GPs[2] headcount per 100,000 population*
Wiltshire total	427	66.7	425	65.6	431	65.8
Swindon Primary Care Trust PCT	123	63.3	124	62.8	125	62.1
Wiltshire PCT	304	68.1	301	66.9	306	67.4
West Mercia total	828	70.3	834	70.6	824	69.4
Herefordshire PCT	137	77.2	137	76.9	138	77.1
Shropshire County PCT	205	71.4	203	70.3	206	70.9
Telford And Wrekin PCT	97	60.1	96	59.5	94	58.1
Worcestershire PCT	389	70.6	398	71.9	386	69.5
Greater Manchester total[3]	1,616	62.5	1,646	63.3	1,681	64.3
Ashton, Leigh And Wigan per	171	56.2	180	59.2	184	60.3
Bolton PCT	168	63.9	174	66.2	186	70.5
Bury PCT	119	65.7	106	58.4	109	60.0
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	127	62.2	123	60.3	125	61.2
Manchester PCT	306	67.2	315	67.7	322	68.0
Oldham PCT	125	57.4	129	59.2	138	63.3
Salford PCT	154	69.7	158	71.4	158	70.8
Stockport PCT	186	66.0	190	67.4	195	69.0
Tameside and Glossop PCT[3]	131	53.1	134	54.3	128	51.6
Trafford PCT	129	60.7	137	64.2	136	63.6

	2009		*2010[1]*	
	GPs[2] headcount	*GPs[2] headcount per 100,000 population*	*GPs[2] headcount*	*GPs[2] headcount per 100,000 population*
Wiltshire total	445	67.4	459	69.5
Swindon Primary Care Trust PCT	137	67.2	145	71.1
Wiltshire PCT	308	67.5	314	68.8
West Mercia total	834	70.1	840	70.6
Herefordshire PCT	134	74.8	136	75.9
Shropshire County PCT	204	69.9	215	73.7.
Telford And Wrekin PCT	101	62.2	98	60.4
Worcestershire PCT	395	71.0	391	70.3
Greater Manchester total[3]	1,768	67.1	1,791	68.0
Ashton, Leigh And Wigan per	182	59.4	190	62.0
Bolton PCT	199	75.1	210	79.2
Bury PCT	122	66.8	116	63.5
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	130	63.5	141	68.9
Manchester PCT	334	69.0	353	73.0
Oldham PCT	145	66.3	143	65.4
Salford PCT	176	78.2	169	75.1
Stockport PCT	195	68.7	193	68.0

	2009		2010[1]	
	GPs[2] headcount	GPs[2] headcount per 100,000 population	GPs[2] headcount	GPs[2] headcount per 100,000 population
Tameside and Glossop PCT[3]	145	58.2	147	59.0
Trafford PCT	140	65.0	141	65.5

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.

[2] All GP figures are GPs (excluding retainers and registrars).

[3] The PCTs displayed service the 10 districts that constitute Greater Manchester. It should be noted that Glossop is not in Greater Manchester but is part of Tameside and Glossop PCT and cannot be separated.

Note:

Data as at 30 September for each year.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2006-09 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (2001 census based). Adjusted May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration methodology.

GP per head of population figures have been calculated using ONS resident population estimates.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Domestic Violence

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the measures in the Health and Social Care Bill on the contribution of GPs to the identification of victims of domestic violence. [68799]

Anne Milton: Measures in the Health and Social Care Bill are unlikely to have any direct effect on the role of general practitioners (GPs) in identifying victims of domestic violence, which we expect GPs to continue to undertake.

We will shortly publish a series of public health reform updates one of which will set out future commissioning responsibilities under the new public health system.

Health Professionals: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of health care professionals who will *(a)* retire, *(b)* take voluntary redundancy and *(c)* take involuntary redundancy in (i) London, (ii) the London borough of Tower Hamlets and (iii) Bethnal Green and Bow constituency in the next 12 months. [69067]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to approach the organisations concerned for the information requested.

Health Professions: Regulation

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answers of 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on health professions and of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 668W, on health professions, regulation, for what reasons the Government will not now be considering a cost-benefit analysis of the statutory regulation of clinical physiologists; [69667]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* role of clinical physiologists and *(b)* risk of harm to patients posed by procedures carried out by clinical physiologists. [69673]

Paul Burstow: The Command Paper, "Enabling Excellence", makes clear that for those groups that have been recommended by the Health Professions Council for statutory regulation in the past, but which are not yet subject to statutory regulation, the assumption is that assured voluntary registration will be the preferred option. This includes clinical physiologists.

The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) (subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill) will be the national accrediting body for assured voluntary registration. As part of their accreditation process, CHRE, which will be renamed the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care, will set standards against which the governance, procedures, registration criteria and performance of voluntary registers will be judged, to ensure they provide assurance to the public and employers about the training, skills and conduct of their registrants.

The extension of statutory regulation will be considered only where there is a robust body of evidence to demonstrate that there is a level of risk to the public which warrants the costs imposed on workers and taxpayers by statutory regulation, and which cannot be effectively addressed through assured voluntary registration.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value of NHS care provided to overseas nationals was in the latest financial year for which figures are available; and how much of the cost has been recouped. [69163]

Anne Milton: Entitlement to free national health service hospital treatment is based on residency in the United Kingdom. Some overseas visitors are also exempted from charges as set out in the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011 and will receive free treatment.

The Department does not hold data on the nationality of those whose treatment is provided for by the NHS budget.

Other overseas nationals, together with UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK are charged by hospitals for the costs of their treatment. Income received by NHS trusts from chargeable NHS patients for 2009-10 was £17,036,000. The Department does not collect information from NHS foundation trusts so the total figure will be higher.

Health Services: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his policy is on the recommendations of Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor's Independent Review of Health Services in North Yorkshire and York; [69747]

(2) if he will visit York to meet NHS patients and members of the public to discuss the recommendations of Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor's Independent Review of Health Services in North Yorkshire and York. [69748]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Yorkshire and the Humber commissioned the independent review of health services in North Yorkshire and York on behalf of the local health economy. As such, the recommendations of this review are a matter for the local NHS. The Secretary of State for Health has no plans to undertake a visit to York to discuss the review. The hon. Member may wish to approach the chief executive of NHS Yorkshire and the Humber for further information.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which public body will be responsible for co-ordinating action to implement the findings of the Independent Review of Health Services in North Yorkshire and York, commissioned by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) for Yorkshire and the Humber, after the SHA is abolished. [69749]

Mr Simon Burns: An amalgam of public bodies, all with an active interest in the way local health services are commissioned, will be responsible for co-ordinating action to implement the findings of this review.

In future clinical commissioning groups will be responsible for commissioning the majority of health services. They will work in partnership with the local community and other organisations such as local authorities, which include health and well-being boards, in deciding the most appropriate health provision in their area.

Health: Information

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure the accuracy of healthcare information on websites that are independent of the NHS; [69317]

(2) what guidelines his Department has issued on the distribution of information for patients; [69325]

(3) what guidelines his Department has issued on the *(a)* content, *(b)* style and *(c)* formatting of patient information leaflets. [69326]

Mr Simon Burns: Ensuring that people can access reliable information to help them take decisions about their health and care is a vital component of shared decision-making and is a right for patients under the NHS Constitution. The Department has supported the establishment of The Information Standard scheme, a voluntary certification scheme for producers of health and social care information, which awards a quality mark to organisations that can show they have robust processes for developing high quality information. There are now over 100 members in this scheme, many of which are from the voluntary and commercial sectors.

Before awarding the quality mark, the scheme assesses how an information producer puts in place systems to ensure its information is reliable, in terms of being evidence based, accurate and up-to-date. It also looks at, among other things, how an information producer works to ensure the content, design and accessibility of their materials meet the needs of their information users.

There are also specific statutory and regulatory requirements for information to accompany licensed medicines and medical devices. To help those involved in the supply chain, the Department of Health and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has published guidance covering issues such as content, style and formatting.

Health Outcomes: Yorkshire and the Humber

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged under 18 were diagnosed with *(a)* autism, *(b)* diabetes and *(c)* asthma in (i) Yorkshire and the Humber and (ii) the Harrogate and District area in each year since 2008. [69453]

Paul Burstow: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on how many people aged under 18 were diagnosed for any of the requested areas is not collected centrally. Autism information is not collected centrally. Harrogate and District area is not a recognised health area. However, the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) holds patient register information for diabetes (aged 17 and over) and asthma (all ages). Information has therefore been provided for North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT), which includes the Harrogate and District area, and Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA), in the following table. The 2010-11 QOF data are due to be published in October 2011.

QOF patient register information for diabetes (aged 17 and over) and asthma (all ages)

	QOF patient register	
	2008-09	2009-10
Diabetes		
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	225,280	236,711
North-Yorkshire and York PCT	28,913	30,350
Asthma		
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	330,096	336,446

QOF patient register information for diabetes (aged 17 and over) and asthma (all ages)

	QOF patient register	
	2008-09	*2009-10*
North Yorkshire and York PCT	48,250	48,799

Notes:
1. QOF is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new General Medical Services (GMS) contract on 1 April 2004. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services (PMS) practices also taking part.
2. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national IT system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.
3. QMAS captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.
4. Coverage of QOF: Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF. Not all practices participate in QOF and some participate in only some parts (especially PMS practices who are paid under different arrangements for providing services which are part of QOF for GMS practices). Most indicators in QOF have rules that allow for patients to be excluded (e.g. patient refuses treatment) and so the denominator for a given indicator may be less than the number of patients on the register for that disease. Note also that some indicators have age limits and so exclude some patients on the register.

Source:
QOF, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

HIV Infection: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the need for services providing specialised care to people with HIV suffering from HIV-related neurocognitive impairment; and if he will make a statement on the potential closure of Mildmay Hospital in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency; [69065]

(2) if he will take steps to protect services for people with HIV and AIDS in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency. [69066]

Anne Milton: Effective treatment has transformed the outlook for people diagnosed with HIV. However, HIV is a complex illness and there will be a small minority of people who require more specialised or hospital in-patient treatment. It is for primary care trusts to decide how they meet these needs either by referral to specialist national health service providers or voluntary sector providers such as Mildmay Hospital in the hon. Member's constituency.

Discussions between the local NHS and commissioners are taking place with respect to Mildmay Hospital.

IVF: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the funding of IVF by primary care trusts for the purposes of ensuring equitable treatment across the country. [69422]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers. The national health service deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to PCT commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight to those involved in commissioning fertility services the importance of having regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of IVF are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

Additionally, we support Infertility Network UK—a leading patient support organisation—to develop and promote standardised access criteria and to work in partnership with commissioners to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services.

Learning Disability: Medical Equipment

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what agencies of his Department are responsible for the provision and repair of communication aids and assistive technology for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [69397]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government about the funding of communication aids and assistive technology specifically for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [69399]

(3) what representations he has received regarding the provision and repair of communication aids and assistive technology for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [69400]

(4) what steps he is taking to monitor and assess the provision and repair of communication aids and assistive technology by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the NHS for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [69401]

(5) whether he has any plans to provide information regarding communication aids and assistive technology for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [69402]

(6) whether he has any plans to commission research into the practice and use of communication aids and assistive technology for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [69403]

(7) what assessment he has made of the implications of the Whole System Demonstrator programme for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [69533]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of local social care services to determine and make arrangements for the provision and repair of communication aids and assistive technology.

The "Vision on Adult Social Care, Capable Communities and Active Citizens" is clear that councils should commission a full range of appropriate preventative and early intervention services such as re-ablement and telecare, working in partnership with the national health service, housing authorities and others.

Generally, councils may supply equipment costing up to £1,000 free of charge but in some circumstances may make direct payments to purchase equipment or adaptations themselves.

No discussions have taken place between the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), about the funding of communication aids and assistive technology for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Local authorities are responsible for assessing the adult social care needs of local people and making arrangements to ensure that eligible needs are met. They are also responsible for determining spending on adult social care to meet local needs and priorities.

Professor Mansell's report "Raising Our Sights" included views from the Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities Network, Mencap, families, care staff, service managers and other respondents. The report recommended that the Government consider whether funding the provision and repair of communication aids for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities should be the responsibility of the NHS or of local authority social care services.

The question of monitoring and assessment are for local determination. The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" proposes closer worker relationship between the NHS and local authorities. NHS and local authority partners should work closely together to improve integration.

There are no plans at present to provide information about communication aids and assistive technology.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health. These applications are subject to peer review and are judged in open competition, with awards being made based on the scientific quality of the proposals made. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity. The Health Technology Assessment Programme is "needs led" and so suggestions for research can be submitted to the programme through a number of routes including an electronic web form at:

http://www.hta.ac.uk/webforms/webforms/hta/0.asp

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme has held several teleconferences with a range of experts in the area of learning disabilities to focus on and identify research priorities including those in the areas of communication aids and assistive technology. Any priorities identified will be fed in to the appropriate NIHR work streams.

The HTA programme has advertised for research, in to "supported self-management of diabetes in people with learning disabilities". A full proposal will be considered in September 2011.

The Whole System Demonstrator Programme was established to determine the cost and clinical effectiveness of telehealth and telecare. The findings are currently being evaluated and will be independently peer reviewed before publication later this year. The benefits of remote monitoring are that it can lead to more independence, people having fewer admissions to home and support clinical monitoring of larger populations.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the availability of drugs for the treatment of leukaemia. [68795]

Mr Simon Burns: There are a number of treatments available on the national health service for the treatment of leukaemia.

Our priority is to give NHS patients better access to effective and innovative medicines by reforming the way companies are paid for NHS medicines, moving to a value-based pricing system when the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme expires at the end of 2013.

In the meantime, we have made £50 million additional funding available for cancer drugs in 2010-11 which has helped over 2,400 patients. Since April 2011, the Cancer Drugs Fund is helping thousands more patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them.

Mass Media

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month for which one was produced since May 1997. [68212]

Mr Simon Burns: Reports of routine monthly media coverage evaluations, from December 2004 to November 2006, can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/Classesofinformation/Communicationsresearch/DH_4130120

Since November 2006, the Department no longer carries out routine monthly national media coverage evaluations.

The Department does not hold central records of any national media coverage evaluations compiled between May 1997 and November 2004, and to locate the information would incur disproportionate costs.

Medical Treatments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to enable the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to be flexible in its approach to appraisals of treatment where the treatment presents unusual challenges to standard methodological process. [68817]

Mr Simon Burns: We have not given guidance to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on this matter and have no plans to do so. NICE is an independent body and is responsible for developing its own appraisal processes and methods, in consultation with stakeholders.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issues on weighting of votes of representative members of its appraisal committees. [68818]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body. I have asked the chief executive of NICE to write to the hon. Member with this information. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence may not announce a decision on a treatment recommended for use by an appraisal committee. [68819]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body. NICE's 'Guide to the single technology appraisal process' describes the arrangements for publication of draft or final guidance following an Appraisal Committee meeting and is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/42D/B3/STAGuideLrFinal.pdf

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each technology to be evaluated by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Medical Technologies Advisory Committee during 2011-12. [69135]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on medical technologies for which guidance is currently being developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Medical Technologies Advisory Committee is available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/Type/MT/InDevelopment

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to promote public understanding of patient rights in respect of access to treatments on the NHS that have been approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [69318]

Mr Simon Burns: The right to drugs and treatments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is set out in the National Health Service Constitution.

All NHS bodies and providers are already required by law to have regard to the NHS constitution and the Government are taking further steps through the current Health and Social Care Bill; Subject to parliamentary approval, the Bill creates an explicit duty for the new NHS Commissioning Board and local clinical commissioning groups to promote the NHS Constitution, including by promoting awareness of the constitution among patients, staff and members of the public.

Meningitis: Vaccination

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he expects to introduce a meningococcal B vaccine as soon as one is licensed; [69575]

(2) if he will provide an update on the work of the meningococcal subgroup of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation following the call for evidence on vaccines against meningococcal group B disease; [69576]

(3) when he plans to begin preparation for the introduction of a meningococcal B vaccine into the childhood immunisation schedule. [69577]

Anne Milton: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the independent expert Committee that provides advice to the Department of Health on the use of vaccines in the national immunisation programme has started to consider the evidence on the use of meningococcal B vaccines.

Following a call for evidence, ending in December 2010, the JCVI considered the submissions and a range of other evidence on meningococcal B vaccines. At its first meeting in February 2011, the meningococcal sub-committee of JCVI discussed the available evidence, provided initial advice and asked for further evidence and research before final advice can be formed. The JCVI considered the sub-committee's views in June 2011. The minutes of these meetings have been published as follows:

Minute of JCVI meningococcal sub-committee 18 February 2011

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_128724.pdf

Draft minute of JCVI 8 June 2011

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@ab/documents/digitalasset/dh_128453.pdf

A copy of the minutes from these meetings has also been placed in the Library.

The Department will consider JCVI's recommendation on meningococcal B vaccination when it is received.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the provision of efficient and up-to-date disease surveillance and microbiology in the monitoring of existing and new vaccines for *(a)* meningococcal and *(b)* pneumococcal disease; and how such services will be incorporated into Public Health England. [69578]

Anne Milton: Surveillance of meningococcal infection is a core responsibility of the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Currently, registered medical practitioners are required to immediately report cases of meningococcal meningitis or septicaemia to the HPA. Enhanced surveillance of meningococcal disease is undertaken in the HPA and involves following up all cases of vaccine preventable infections to ascertain vaccination status and additional clinical details. These data are used, in conjunction with information on coverage of vaccination, to establish the effectiveness of the current routine vaccination programme.

The HPA also carries out pneumococcal disease surveillance. National pneumococcal surveillance is used to monitor the impact and effectiveness of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines currently given in the childhood immunisation schedule.

"Healthy Lives, Healthy People: update and way forward" indicated that the Department will publish the operating model for Public Health England in autumn 2011. The operating model will set out Public Health England's functions and organisational design, including in disease surveillance. Engagement is proceeding over the summer months to involve stakeholders in helping to shape the operating model.

Mental Health Services

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure equality across the regions in the provision of mental health services. [69207]

Paul Burstow: The Mental Health strategy 'No health without mental health' recognises that better mental health, mental well-being and mental health services must be better for all—whatever people's age, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, or gender reassignment status.

The public sector duty in the Equality Act 2010 means that public bodies, including Government Departments, will need to be mindful of how the inclusion and equitable treatment of all protected groups is incorporated, as public agencies produce, monitor and report on how they have met their equality objectives.

The Ministerial Working Group on Equality in Mental Health has been established to support the Mental Health Equality work-stream of the Mental Health Strategy programme. The group will report to the Mental Health Strategy Ministerial Advisory Group. This will help to ensure that equality issues directly inform strategy implementation and enable the Government to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act.

The National Health Service Equality Delivery System will help NHS organisations to comply with the Equality Act and deliver fair and personalised services.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Private Patients

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of private patients who may be treated by foundation trusts in the first year following the lifting of the private patients income cap. [69206]

Mr Simon Burns: The effect of removing the private patient income cap for national health service foundation trusts is considered in the Government's Command Paper, 'Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps', and the impact assessments so far published for the Health and Social Care Bill 2011.

NHS: Drugs

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means the dispensing of medication for in-patients in NHS hospitals is regulated. [69427]

Mr Simon Burns: In general, including in national health service hospitals, the supply of medicines is regulated through the Medicines Act 1968 and the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, as well as registration of health care providers with the Care Quality Commission and professional regulation.

In July 2011, the Department issued a reminder notice to NHS chief executives and pharmaceutical officers, through its publication "The Week", of the importance of adhering to existing guidance on medicines management, published by the former Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, "The Safe and Secure Handling of Medicine: A Team Approach", in 2005. The Department expects all hospitals to ensure they have in place a robust policy, signed off by the Trust Board, for the safe and secure handling of medicines, and that managers and all staff who prescribe, dispense or administer medicines are familiar with the policy.

NHS: Reorganisation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for commissioning services for *(a)* acquired brain injury, *(b)* tuberous sclerosis, *(c)* trigeminal neuralgia, *(d)* transverse myelitis, *(e)* Tourette's syndrome, *(f)* Guillain-Barre syndrome, *(g)* narcolepsy, *(h)* myasthenia gravis, *(i)* multiple system atrophy, *(j)* spina bifida, *(k)* hydrocephalus, *(l)* dystonia, *(m)* myalgic encephalomyelitis, *(n)* Parkinson's disease, *(o)* motor neurone disease, *(p)* epilepsy and *(q)* multiple sclerosis following his proposed NHS reorganisation. [68491]

Paul Burstow: Although it is expected that Clinical Commissioning Groups will commission the majority of services, the Health and Social Care Bill sets out the Government's intentions that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission certain services directly. Services that will be commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board will be referred to as prescribed services and will be those that are included within specialised services that are currently commissioned both nationally and regionally.

A Clinical Advisory Group has been established to develop a list of services that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission from 1 April 2013, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill and, as part of this work, the Group has been considering the neurosciences. While the list will be based on the services set out in the third edition of the Specialised Services National Definitions Set (SSDNS), the Group is also considering additional services that were excluded from the third edition of SSNDS, and which featured in earlier editions of SSNDS.

NHS: Theft

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial loss attributable to theft of medical equipment and other supplies from each health authority was in the last five years for which figures are available. [69014]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Obesity

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to reduce levels of obesity; and what recent progress has been made. [70225]

Anne Milton: Later this year we will be publishing a document on obesity that will set out how obesity will be tackled in the new public health and national health service systems, and the role of key partners. This will also set out what progress has already been made to facilitate action to help people make healthier choices and improve their lifestyles.

We want people to know that they can change their own and their families' lifestyle and in doing so they can make a difference to their health. What the Government can do is give the public clear, consistent messages on why they should change their lifestyle, how to do so, and put in place ways to make this easier. However, we cannot tackle obesity alone it is an issue for society as a whole. We all have a role to play.

Obesity : North Yorkshire

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS in York and North Yorkshire was of obesity-related illness in the latest period for which figures are available. [68979]

Anne Milton: Information on the actual cost to the national health service of overweight and obesity is not collected by the Department.

The estimated cost of overweight and obesity to the NHS nationally was set out in the Foresight report "Tackling Obesities: Future Choices—Modelling Future Trends in Obesity and the Impact on Health" published in 2007. In 2010, the Department published "Supporting Commissioning of Adult Weight Management Services". This included an estimate of a total annual cost of £258 million to the NHS in North Yorkshire and York for the principal diseases, including type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, breast and colorectal cancer, where elevated Body Mass Index is a risk factor.

As not every patient who has one of these diseases is obese or overweight, the modelling overestimates the cost to the NHS in North Yorkshire and York directly attributable to overweight and obesity.

Obesity Management Association

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Obesity Management Association; [69564]

(2) whether he has had discussions with representatives of the Obesity Management Association on conducting a clinical trial of the methods advocated by the Association. [69565]

Anne Milton: Ministers have not had any discussions with the Obesity Management Association.

Palliative Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days of palliative care were provided by the NHS in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost at national tariff rates was for such care. [68543]

Paul Burstow: Information about bed days used for palliative care is not available centrally.

There is currently no national tariff for palliative or end of life care. We made a commitment in the coalition programme to review payment systems to support end of life care, including exploring options for per-patient funding, and set up an independent Palliative Care Funding Review to take this work forward.

The review published its final report on 1 July 2011. We welcome the report, which has made an excellent start in looking at this complex and challenging issue. The review has come up with a range of significant proposals. We need now to consider these recommendations in detail and expect to consult stakeholders on the way forward shortly before running pilots.

Patients: Nutrition

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who in the Care Quality Commission has responsibility for *(a)* malnutrition and *(b)* improvement of nutritional care across health and care settings. [68769]

Mr Simon Burns: Providers of regulated activities have to comply with registration requirements including one on meeting nutritional needs and are therefore responsible for delivering nutritional care. Where a provider is not meeting this requirement the Care Quality Commission (CQC) can take action to bring about improvement needed to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

The Chief Executive of the CQC is Cynthia Bower. As such, she has overall responsibility for the CQCs delivery of its functions. This includes ensuring that the CQC carries out its registration function, providing assurance that the CQC takes appropriate action where providers are not compliant, including where it is found that providers are not meeting nutritional needs.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide nutritional screening for vulnerable patients on admission to hospital and in care settings. [68770]

Paul Burstow: National health service organisations and local authorities are responsible for nutrition screening policies. There are a number of initiatives in place to help organisations develop their policies. These include the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on malnutrition which recommends that all hospital in-patients be weighed, measured and have their Body Mass Index calculated on admission to hospital. Additionally, the "Essence of Care" benchmarking system includes a benchmark on "food and drink" which illustrates the good practice of screening and assessment of patients on initial contact with a health professional in health and social care settings. This is reinforced within the Council of Europe resolution on food and nutritional care in hospital recommending the screening of all patients on admission to hospital.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many commissioners have established Commissioning for Quality and Innovation schemes to tackle malnutrition in hospitals since May 2010. [68771]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally. Commissioners are encouraged to share their Commissioning for Quality and Innovation schemes at the website of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement:

www.institute.nhs.uk/world_class_commissioning/pct_portal/cquin.html

Tissue Viability Services

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for commissioning community-based tissue viability services after the abolition of primary care trusts. [68529]

Mr Simon Burns: Clinical commissioning groups will in future commission the majority of national health service services. This includes the commissioning of community-based tissue viability services. The proposed NHS Commissioning Board would commission services it would not be appropriate for clinical commissioning groups to commission, such as primary care, and national and regional specialised services for patients with rare conditions.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the financial settlement for each primary care trust for the duration of the comprehensive spending review period. [69137]

Mr Simon Burns: The majority of primary care trust (PCT) revenue funding is allocated to PCTs via their revenue allocations.

Of over £102 billion in total revenue investment in the national health service announced for 2011-12, the majority of the PCT revenue budget, £89 billion, was allocated to PCTs in December 2010. This funding included an increase of £1.9 billion in PCT recurrent allocations (including £150 million for re-ablement), £69 million in non-recurrent allocations for primary dental services, pharmaceutical services and general ophthalmic services, and £648 million to support joint working between health and social care.

Full details of the revenue allocations made to PCTs for 2011-12 can be found by visiting the NHS allocations page of the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/allocations

PCT recurrent revenue allocations for 2012-13 will be announced as soon as is practical this year.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, PCTs will be dissolved in April 2013.

Psychiatry

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's methodology for assessing different types of psychotherapy. [69331]

Paul Burstow: We have made no such assessment. As an independent body, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is responsible for developing and reviewing its own processes and methods for the development of guidance.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Government on the performance of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme; and if he will make a statement. [69638]

Paul Burstow: No discussions have taken place between the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley) and Ministers in the Scottish Government on the performance of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence consults professional organisations in the field of psychotherapy on the adequacy of its guidelines on psychotherapy. [69752]

Paul Burstow: We have no plans to do so. In developing its guidance to the national health service, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) consults widely with relevant stakeholders, including professional organisations. NICE is an independent body and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to intervene in the detail of its work.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consideration the NHS has given to the 2007 recommendations of the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group on maximum travel times for radiotherapy patients in determining the provision of radiotherapy treatment with CyberKnife for cancer patients resident in Wells constituency; [69132]

(2) how much his Department plans to give to each primary care trust from the sum it has allocated in additional funding for the improvement of radiotherapy treatment; [69133]

(3) what his policy is on the commissioning recommendations in respect of stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment made in the April 2011 report of the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group. [69134]

Paul Burstow: The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report 'Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England', published in 2007, recommended that, where possible, patients should not travel more than 45 minutes for radiotherapy treatment. It was for local trusts to take account of this recommendation. The report made no specific recommendations regarding the provision of stereotactic body radiotherapy, which is the type of the radiotherapy that Cyberknife delivers.

'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' sets out our commitment to expand radiotherapy capacity by investing over £150 million nationally in additional funding over the next four years. This funding, as well as existing funding for radiotherapy, is included in overall primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations which amount to around £85 billion nationally.

These overall baseline allocations are currently set on the basis of a weighted capitation formula, used to determine PCTs target shares of overall national health service resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. However, the Secretary of State for Health does not mandate how much individual PCTs are to spend on particular services within these overall allocations. PCTs have local discretion to decide how to use their overall allocation to commission services, including radiotherapy services, to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group report 'Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Guidelines for Commissioners, Providers and Clinicians in England 2011' has now been made available on the National Cancer Action Team website at:

www.ncat.nhs.uk/our-work/ensuring-better-treatment/radiotherapy

It is for local commissioners to take account of this guidance.

Smoking

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans a national review of the smoking ban; and if he will make a statement. [68654]

Anne Milton: In "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England" published in March 2011, the Government sets out their belief that the aims of smokefree legislation are continuing to be achieved effectively. Alongside this plan, an independent academic review of the evidence of the impact of smokefree legislation was published, titled "The Impact of Smokefree legislation in England", showing that the legislation has had beneficial effects on health. Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

The Government also published their interim Post-Legislative Assessment of the Health Act 2006 on 12 July 2011, a copy of which is available in the Library.

The Government have no plans to review smokefree legislation further at this stage.

Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1277-8W, on the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group, which patient representative organisations have been selected to sit on the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group. [69113]

Mr Simon Burns: The Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group includes patient interest group representation from: the Specialised Healthcare Alliance (representing a range of patient interest groups covering most of the National Specialised Services Definition Set), the Genetic Alliance UK (a national charity of over 130 patient organisations supporting all those affected by genetic disorders), Rare Disease UK, the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS), Emergence, Bliss, Comprehensive Care for Sickle Cell Disease[1], Sickle Cell Society[1], Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association, the Haemophilia Society, the British Heart Foundation and the Richmond Group (representing 10 of the largest patient/service users organisations in the United Kingdom).

[1] Alternating attendance

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the name is of each representative of the Specialist Healthcare Alliance who sits on the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group; and if he will identify which organisation each represents; [69136]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 305-06W, on Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group, for what reasons the Specialised Healthcare Alliance was chosen to represent patients. [69200]

Mr Simon Burns: A key aim of the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group is to ensure that there is stakeholder involvement in the co-design and co-production of the future model for engaging patients and the public in the commissioning of specialised services through the NHS Commissioning Board.

The Director of the Specialised Healthcare Alliance sits on the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group. The Specialised Healthcare Alliance was selected as one of the two main umbrella organisations with an interest in specialised health care. It represents a range of patient interest groups covering most of the National Specialised Services Definition Set.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 305-06W, on Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group, which groups his Department considered when selecting organisations to represent patients on the group. [69199]

Mr Simon Burns: When establishing the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group, the Department was mindful of the need to ensure broad representation from a range of different stakeholder interests without making the steering group so unwieldy that it would have problems discharging its functions. As such, in consultation with Specialised Services Commissioners, the Specialised Healthcare Alliance and the Department, a number of patient organisations were identified that would have different perspectives. The group has representatives from the two main umbrella organisations with an interest in specialised health care, the Specialised Healthcare Alliance and the Genetic Alliance UK.

In consultation with the Specialised Healthcare Alliance, it was agreed that additional members would represent a patient's organisation with a mental health focus; an organisation with a focus on children's health; and organisations with backgrounds in acute and chronic illnesses. It was also agreed to have a mix of small and large organisations, to gain a broad perspective. In addition, there is membership from a representative of the Richmond Group, representing 10 of the largest patient/service users organisations in the United Kingdom.

By selecting these organisations, we aim to ensure that the future model is aware of the different ways in which engagement would need to function for different types of health condition. The group is a "broad-church" to provide advice on the design of a future structure and as such does not aim to represent the unique and particular interests of every health condition. Its aim is to design a framework that can be used sensitively to ensure appropriate patient engagement across the range of specialised health services.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 305-6W, on Specialised Services Patient and

Public Engagement Steering Group, what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* membership is of the Richmond Group; if he will list the 10 major charities to which his answer refers; and what information his Department holds on the relationship between the Richmond Group and the financial services company of the same name. [69201]

Mr Simon Burns: The Richmond Group comprises 10 large charities across a range of health and social care issues. Brought together by the Department as part of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention programme, they have formed an identity of their own. The group membership is Age UK, Asthma UK, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, British Heart Foundation, British Lung Foundation, Diabetes UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, The Neurological Alliance, Rethink and The Stroke Association.

The Group is known as the Richmond Group because they first met in Richmond House and are not associated with the financial services company with this name.

Suicide: Internet

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of suicides that had a connection to websites promoting suicide in the latest period for which figures are available. [69072]

Paul Burstow: We do not collect this information centrally. There is no routine recording of internet-related suicide and it would be difficult to define and identify such cases nationally. It is expected that the "National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness" will, in the future, include data on suicides among patients where websites that promote suicide have been involved.

Surgery

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical errors leading to avoidable harm were recorded in the NHS in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [68998]

Mr Simon Burns: Data held by the National Patient Safety Agency shows that from April 2009 to March 2010, there were 47,645 surgical incidents resulting in harm reported to the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS).

From April 2010 to March 2011 there were 50,183 surgical incidents resulting in harm reported to the NRLS.

Surgery: Safety

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have not implemented the surgical safety checklist recommended by the World Health Organisation. [68976]

Mr Simon Burns: On 26 January 2009, the National Patient Safety Agency issued a patient safety alert to the national health service in relation to the World Health Organization (WHO) Surgical Safety Checklist. This required the following actions:

ensure an executive and a clinical lead are identified in order to implement the surgical safety checklist within the organisation;

ensure the checklist is completed for every patient undergoing a surgical procedure (including local anaesthesia); and

ensure that the use of the checklist is entered in the clinical notes or electronic record by a registered member of the team, for example, surgeon, anaesthetist, nurse, operating department practitioner.

Data held on the Central Alerting System (CAS), through which the patient safety alert was issued, shows that all NHS trusts listed on the CAS have received and made responses in relation to the patient safety alert that required implementation of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist.

Analysis of these data shows that 301 trusts (77 per cent.) state they have completed implementing the alert and 91 trusts (23 per cent.) have stated that no action is required by them. Of the 147 of these trusts that are primary care trusts, 112 state they have completed implementing the alert and 35 state that no action is required by them in relation to the alert.

A response of 'Action not required' indicates that a trust considers that the actions required in a patient safety alert are not relevant to their organisation, whereas a response of 'Completed' signifies that a trust considers that it has carried out all the actions required in the alert that are applicable to them.

Tobacco

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators on the change in the law affecting the operation of cigarette vending machines from 1 October 2011; [69362]

(2) whether compensation will be made available to the operators of cigarette vending machines affected by a change in the law from 1 October 2011; [69363]

(3) what steps he plans to take to inform operators of cigarette vending machines of the change in the law relating to their businesses from 1 October 2011. [69364]

Anne Milton: The prohibition of tobacco sales from vending machines will come into force, in England, on 1 October 2011. The Government are not intending to pay compensation to vending machine companies.

Sinclair Collis and the members of the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators (NACMO) who, between them, own the majority of vending machines in England, are both aware of the requirements of legislation and the commencement date.

The Department will undertake activity to raise awareness of the legislation before October, and have supported the preparation of guidance for local authorities. NACMO have been invited to comment on the draft version of this guidance.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the health impact of the sale of counterfeit cigarettes from tab houses. [69523]

Anne Milton: The Department is not aware of any evidence, which estimates the health impact of the sale of counterfeit cigarettes in tab houses.

All cigarettes are harmful to health, whether genuine or counterfeit. There is no evidence to suggest that counterfeit cigarettes or other counterfeit tobacco products are more harmful to health than genuine products, regardless of where that counterfeit tobacco is sold.

'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England', published earlier this year sets out a range of Government actions on both the supply-side and demand-side to reduce smoking prevalence and the harms from tobacco in England. The availability of illicit tobacco undermines activity to try to reduce the affordability of tobacco, including through tax increases. Reducing the share of the illicit tobacco market also helps to reduce tobacco consumption, reduce organised crime in local communities, reduce potential revenue loss to the Treasury and support legitimate retailers. Latest estimates indicate action led by HM Revenue and Customs over the past decade has reduced the illicit share of the cigarette market down to 11% in 2009 (from 20% in 2000) and the illicit share of the hand-rolling tobacco market down to 49% in 2009 (from 60% in 2000).

Warwickshire Primary Care Trust

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was received by Warwickshire Primary Care Trust in each year since 2007. [69525]

Mr Simon Burns: Allocations for 2007-08 were announced in 2005 for North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), Rugby PCT and South Warwickshire PCT. These PCTs merged to form Warwickshire PCT in 2006. The information requested is in the following tables:

PCT	*2007-08 PCT recurrent revenue allocations (£000)*
North Warwickshire	234,807
Rugby	113,435
South Warwickshire	303,964
Total	652,206

	Warwickshire PCT recurrent revenue allocations (£000)
2008-09	687,830
2009-10	739,819
2010-11	781,747
2011-12	787,474

Note:
Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes in baselines—that is changes in PCTs' responsibilities to be funded from allocations.
Source:
Financial Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated cost was of management for Warwickshire Primary Care Trust in each year since 2007; [69527]

(2) what the costs of administration of the Warwickshire Primary Care Trust were in each year since 2007. [69530]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on management and administration costs for Warwickshire Primary Care Trust is shown in the following table:

	Managers and senior managers	*Administrative and clerical staff*
2006-07	7,833	14,092
2007-08	4,803	10,814
2008-09	3,214	12,171
2009-10	1,530	15,693

Note:
The figures represent expenditure on managers and senior managers and administrative and clerical staff for each year since 2006-07.
Source:
Financial Returns

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital bed days there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in Warwickshire Primary Care Trust area in each year since 2007. [69529]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Hove (Mike Weatherley) on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 426W.

EDUCATION

Academies

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in each local authority *(a)* had applied and *(b)* were applying for academy status on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many in each local authority area are planning to use the payroll and human resources services of the local authority. [68807]

Mr Gibb: The latest number of schools in each local authority who have applied for academy status is published on the Department's website monthly. The list can be accessed at the following web address:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/b0069811/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development

We do not collect data on which academies plan to use the payroll and human resources services of the local authority.

Academies: First Aid Training

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provisions academies are required to make to train staff to deliver emergency first aid to those diagnosed with *(a)* epilepsy and *(b)* allergies. [68973]

Mr Gibb: The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (HSWA) 1974 places duties on employers for the health and safety of their employees and anyone else on the premises including, if they are a school, its pupils. As employers, academies must: prepare a written Health and Safety policy; make sure that staff are aware of the policy and their responsibilities within that policy; make arrangements to implement the policy; and make sure that appropriate safety measures are in place to ensure staff are trained and receive guidance on their responsibilities.

The responsibility of the academy is to make sure that safety measures cover the needs of all children at the school. In some cases children with medical needs may be more at risk than other children and staff may need to take additional steps to safeguard the health and safety of such children. Where children have medical needs, they may require specific support. The academy is responsible for making sure that all relevant staff know about and are, if necessary, trained to provide any additional support these children require.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate has been made of the total cost to the public purse to date of the cancellation of Building Schools for the Future funding, including costs to local authorities of legal fees and contractual liabilities for cancellation of work already underway. [69674]

Mr Gibb: No estimate has been made of the total cost of the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The design of BSF meant that significant sums had to be spent by local authorities before contracts were finalised and we have terminated the programme to prevent such waste. We are taking steps to ensure that future education capital expenditure delivers greater value for money.

Education: Assessments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has considered granting additional powers to Ofqual in order that it may better regulate awarding bodies; and if so, with what outcomes. [68165]

Mr Gibb: Ofqual have acted quickly and decisively to address the serious and unacceptable errors in this summer's exam papers. However, in the light of the concerns raised by these errors, the Government are currently considering whether any additional powers of enforcement would further equip Ofqual to: tackle poor practice to prevent the kind of errors that happened this year; incentivise improvements in the standard of awarding body performance; and provide proportionate and effective sanctions for non-compliance with regulatory requirements whenever it occurs. Further information on the outcome will be available in the autumn.

Food Technology

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the merits of maintaining the teaching of practical cooking skills as a compulsory part of the school curriculum at Key Stage 3. [68069]

Mr Gibb: This Government believe that teaching practical cooking to children makes a significant contribution to healthier living. It is not currently a compulsory part of the KS3 curriculum in schools, but the national curriculum review which is underway will advise the government about the merits of making it so. Our proposals for the content of the new national curriculum at each key stage will be published early in 2012.

Free School Meals

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools with over 40 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals are (i) below and (ii) above the floor level. [68466]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is as follows.

(a) There are 1,810 maintained primary schools with over 40% of pupils eligible for free school meals, of which; (i) 397 (22%) are below the floor standard and (ii) 1,413 (78%) are not below the floor standard.

(b) There are 417 maintained secondary schools with over 40% of pupils eligible for free school meals, of which; (i) 40 (10%) are below the floor standard and (ii) 377 (90%) are not below the floor standard.

These figures are based on data for 2010 (using data from 2009 for primary schools that did not participate in the 2010 national curriculum tests). Figures for 2011 are not yet available.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools with over 40 per cent. of children eligible for free school meals and in the most deprived third of schools in the sector, as measured by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, are (i) below and (ii) above the floor level. [68468]

Mr Gibb: The information is as follows:

(a) There are 1,768 maintained primary schools with over 40% of children eligible for free school meals and in the most deprived third of schools in the sector as measured by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, of which; (i) 393 (22%) are below the floor standard and (ii) 1,375 (78%) are not below the floor standard.

(b) There are 390 maintained secondary schools with over 40% of children eligible for free school meals and in the most deprived third of schools in the sector as measured by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, of which; (i) 39 (10%) are below the floor standard and (ii) 351 (90%) are not below the floor standard.

These figures are based on data for 2010 (using data from 2009 for primary schools that did not participate in the 2010 national curriculum tests). Figures for 2011 are not yet available.

Free School Meals: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils of each ethnicity at each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency were eligible for free school meals on the latest date for which figures are available. [68681]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

The latest published information, for January 2011, on ethnicity and free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Health Education: Sex

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on health education: sex, in schools which teach aspects of sex and relationships education in science lessons that are not covered by the national curriculum for science, whether there are requirements on the governing body to consult parents on the *(a)* delivery and *(b)* content of what is taught for the purposes of ensuring that it reflects the wishes of parents; what powers parents have to withdraw their children from such lessons; and if he will make a statement. [68555]

Mr Gibb: Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education (SRE) provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum, including the statutory science curriculum. The Department's SRE guidance requires governing bodies to have a written policy and strongly encourages them to consult parents during its development. The policy must define SRE, describe how it is provided and who is responsible for providing it.

Outdoor Education

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to promote the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. [63643]

Mr Gibb: In the Government's response to the recommendations of the Children, Schools and Families Committee on Learning Outside the Classroom, published in October 2010, we made clear our support for education outside the classroom. The Government also set out their view that the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom and its member organisations should work directly with schools and education providers. We do not intend to provide additional resources, Government regulation, monitoring or guidance for the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom and the Quality Badge scheme.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many 16 to 18 year olds in schools are *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* receive free school meals.[R] [68487]

Mr Gibb: The information available on the number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals by age as at January 2011, is published in table 3a of the Statistical First Release "Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2011" available at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Information on pupils who may be entitled but do not make a claim is not centrally collected.

School Milk

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to promote the drinking of milk in nursery and primary school settings as part of the implementation of the revised Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. [67963]

Sarah Teather: The Government believe that the early years are crucial to the future success and well-being of all children and have published a statement of their vision for the early years.

Dame Clare Tickell's review of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) reflected the findings from the Advisory Panel on Food and Nutrition in Early Years about offering voluntary nutritional guidance to help settings to provide healthy, balanced and nutritious food and drink for children in child care up to age five. The Government have asked the School Food Trust to develop voluntary guidance and a code of practice to support practitioners.

Schools: Standards

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools are below the floor level. [68467]

Mr Gibb: There are currently *(a)* 1,394 maintained primary schools and *(b)* 216 maintained secondary schools below the floor standards. These figures are based on data for 2010 (using data from 2009 for primary schools that did not participate in the 2010 national curriculum tests). Figures for 2011 are not yet available.

Sixth Form Education: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 992W, on sixth form colleges, how many young people entered formal post-16 education in sixth forms in *(a)* Sunderland Central constituency and *(b)* Sunderland in (i) 2000 and (ii) 2009. [69005]

Mr Gibb: Data on participation in education post-16 is published in a Department for Education (DFE) Statistical First Release (SFR) entitled "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England".

Information on participation is not available at constituency level. The following table shows the numbers and proportions of the cohort of young people of academic age 16 (the vast majority of whom will be in their first year of post-compulsory education) in the Sunderland local authority area who were participating in education, by institution type, in 2000 and 2009.

Young people in school sixth forms are shown here as participating in maintained schools, academies and city technology colleges, and independent schools.

Sunderland local authority: participation in education at academic age 16 by institution type, end 2000 and end 2009

	End 2000		End 2009	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Maintained schools[1]	500	14	700	20
Academies and city technology colleges	—	0	—	0
Independent schools[2]	—	1	100	2
Sixth form colleges	—	0	—	0
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	1,600	42	2,000	55
Total	2,100	57	2,800	77
Population	4,000		3,600	

[1] Includes all pupils in maintained schools and maintained special schools and pupil referral units.

[2] Includes all pupils in independent schools, non-maintained special schools.

Special Educational Needs

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the new Special Educational Needs Code of Practice will give rights to children without education, health and care plans or statements who have special educational needs. [66984]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Any revision of the special educational needs (SEN) Code of Practice following the SEN and disability Green Paper, 'Support and aspiration', will make clear that schools will continue to have a duty to "use their best endeavours" to make appropriate provision to meet the special educational needs of children with SEN but without education, health and care plans or SEN statements.

The Green Paper sets out a proposal that local authorities must publish a "local offer" of the support that is normally available for children with SEN or who are disabled and their families, and from whom.

The new inspection requirements set out in the Education Bill are quite explicit with regard to disability and SEN. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) will be required, when reporting on the quality of education in a school, to consider how the school meets the needs of pupils who have a disability and pupils who have special educational needs.

We are also considering a package of measures to ensure that schools are properly accountable for outcomes for vulnerable pupils. We are exploring the options for publishing better information on pupil destinations on leaving school and on progress made by the lowest performers.

Special Educational Needs: Employment

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of attending a special school on the ability of a young person to gain employment; and if he will make a statement. [66815]

Sarah Teather: Currently, the Department for Education does not collect information about the impact of special schools on the ability of a young person to gain employment. However, in the recent Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability", we announced our intention to introduce Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 destination measures. These school and college level measures will demonstrate how many of schools' and colleges' former pupils progress into further education, employment or training. It is our intention to include special school pupils within these measures at the earliest opportunity, following testing of the data collection processes.

Special Educational Needs: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to increase the efficacy of special needs education provision in Pendle. [67040]

Sarah Teather: In March 2011 the Government published their SEN and Disability Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability". The Green Paper made wide ranging proposals to improve the efficiency of special educational needs provision across the country, including in Pendle. Consultation on the Green paper closed on 30 June with over 2,300 responses received.

Proposals in the Green Paper include: a new single early years setting and school-based category of SEN; replacing the statutory SEN assessment and statement for children with complex needs and the Learning Difficulty Assessment for those aged 16-25 with a new, stronger single assessment and plan, called the Education, Health and Care plan; reducing the time limit for the statutory assessment process from 26 weeks to 20 weeks; a local offer, set out by local authorities and other services, of all services available to support children and young people who are disabled, or who have SEN and their families and the option of a personal budget by 2014 for all families with an Education, Health and Care plan.

The Green Paper also promotes a reduction in the bureaucratic burdens on professionals so that they can concentrate on helping children and young people fulfil their potential. It commits the Government to simplifying and improving statutory guidance for professionals working with children with SEN and disabilities so that it is clear accessible and helpful and to withdrawing guidance that does not provide useful support. In particular, we will shorten the SEN Code of Practice and incorporate within it other guidance that is considered helpful to professionals.

The process of commissioning pathfinders to test out some of our proposals began in June, to start from September 2011. Local pathfinders will show what is possible and whether central Government must act to facilitate local innovation, working with local areas and the voluntary and community sector to drive reforms.

Supply Teachers

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the (a) quality and (b) rates of pay of supply teachers of the introduction of the Agency Workers Regulations. [69039]

Mr Gibb: Schools and agencies will continue to be responsible for appointing the most suitable supply teachers. The Department's Quality Mark scheme will continue to ensure the quality of supply teachers provided to schools by agencies. The Quality Mark recognises private sector agencies and local authorities which have demonstrated good practice in recruiting and managing supply teachers for schools. The award gives increased confidence to schools, parents and pupils that staff supplied through agencies have been recruited properly.

The Agency Workers Regulations will entitle agency supply teachers to be paid the same rates they would receive if they had been recruited by either the school or the local authority. This will only apply after the teacher has completed a qualifying period of 12 weeks in the same role with either the same school or local authority. After the qualifying period, teachers in maintained schools will be paid at their appropriate point on the main or upper pay scale in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). Teachers in academy schools which are outside the STPCD will be entitled to the same salaries as other teachers in the academy.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Workplace Dress Codes

Naomi Long: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent assessment she has made of the compatibility with equalities legislation of *(a)* the requirement to wear a necktie and *(b)* other gender-specific workplace dress codes. [68710]

Mrs May: Today I am wearing a silver grey trouser suit and a pair of shoes from LK Bennett.

As Secretary of State for the Home Department I have not found that traditional gender-based workplace dress codes have held me back. I indeed believe that they encourage a sense of professionalism in the workplace.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for future provision of adult education in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets. [68627]

Mr Hayes: Skills are vital to achieve sustainable growth, prosperity, social mobility and fairness. The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for funding arrangements, and has made an allocation of £14,151,665 for post-19 further education to colleges and training organisations in the London borough of Tower Hamlets for the 2011/12 academic year. This includes support for adult apprenticeships as the programme at the heart of the skills system we are building. The agency does not hold specific data relating to the constituency of Bethnal Green and Bow.

As well as apprenticeships, this investment will fully fund basic literacy and numeracy qualifications for those who left school without basic reading, writing and mathematics, and foundation learning and first full level 2 and level 3 qualifications for young adults. We will also fully fund units and full qualifications to support unemployed people into work who are in receipt of active benefits. The Government will continue to invest in training outside those areas where full subsidy is available, with the costs shared between the Government and the learner or employer.

From 2013/14, FE fee loans will be introduced for learning at Level 3 and above for those aged 24 and over.

Our investment for 2011/12 will also support Informal adult and community learning in Tower Hamlets. Informal learning is an important part of the wider learning continuum and comprises a broad range of provision. We are currently reviewing nationally how to maximise this form of learning's contribution to initiatives such as building the Big Society through learning for personal development, digital inclusion and motivating people from disadvantaged groups and supporting their progression.

As part of our wider reforms, we have provided greater freedoms and flexibilities for FE colleges and training organisations, including simplifying funding so that colleges can manage their budgets more flexibly in line with priorities. This will place them in a better position to respond to the needs of learners, employers and communities to whom they will be increasingly accountable.

Apprentices: Chatham

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships have been started in Chatham and Aylesford constituency since 2005. [68400]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts in Chatham and Aylesford constituency for academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts in Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	Number
2005/06	200
2006/07	280
2007/08	340
2008/09	340
2009/10	420

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. These figures are based on the geographic boundaries of parliamentary constituencies as of May 2010.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: North East England

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small and medium-sized businesses to offer apprenticeships to young people in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Sunderland. [69012]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) was set up to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities and provide a dedicated, responsive service for both employers and learners. Specifically for smaller employers (those with up to 250 employees), NAS provides support through a dedicated web and telephone based service.

In the North East between 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011, NAS has helped 500 businesses to create 950 apprenticeship opportunities—71% of these businesses had less than 250 employees. This includes 50 businesses in Sunderland which have been helped by NAS to create 87 apprenticeship opportunities—with 76% having less than 250 employees. It is not possible to provide a breakdown by age group.

The Government do want to do more to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to offer apprenticeships. We are currently examining what more can be done to facilitate greater SME engagement in skills and training and will publish our recommendations in the autumn.

Intellectual Property

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals on private format shifting. [69669]

Mr Davey: The Government published their response to the Hargreaves review 'Digital Opportunity, A Review of Intellectual Property and Growth' on 3 August 2011. The response sets out the Government's broad acceptance of the review's recommendations, including the introduction of a limited exception to copyright for private copying, and outlines how the Government propose to take matters forward. We will consult on how we plan to implement this recommendation in the autumn.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the pricing model in the central rights database. [69670]

Mr Davey: On 3 August the Government published their response to the independent review of intellectual property and growth, in which we accepted the report's recommendations including the establishing of a cross-sectoral Digital Copyright Exchange (DCE).

In the Government's response we set out some of the required parameters, one of which is that a successful DCE would need to allow prices to be set or negotiated by the rights holder, subject to controls on unfair competition (such as the tariffs currently set by the Copyright Tribunal).

The Government are looking to appoint a senior figure to work with relevant parties to lead this work with a view to setting up a DCE by the end of 2012.

Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66323]

Mr Davey: In June 2009 the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) was merged with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to create the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Since May 2010 BIS has recruited 14 people to fill posts requiring special skills not already available in the Department. We have also brought in 22 graduates as part of the annual Fast Stream recruitment round conducted on behalf of all Departments by the Cabinet Office.

330 people left BIS under a voluntary exit scheme in September-October 2010. In February 2011 the Department launched a further voluntary redundancy scheme which is still ongoing, under which 220 people are currently scheduled to leave.

This information for agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 132W, on departmental work experience, what the level was of the training allowance paid to interns while working in his Department. [69474]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pays a training allowance of £350 per week to interns in London and £300 per week to interns outside London.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69515]

Mr Davey: As of 1 July 2011, the position in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was as follows: *(a)* it has been normal practice for informal unpaid work experience placements to be offered to schoolchildren but these are not recorded centrally as they are normally of a very limited duration, *(b)* no unpaid interns and *(c)* no civil servants working in the Department who were not being paid.

Single European Payment Area

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the potential benefits to economic growth in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the Eurozone and *(c)* the EU of expansion of the Single European Payment Area. [69306]

Mr Davey: A study commissioned by the European Commission shows that the use of Single European Payment Area (SEPA) payment instruments holds a potential of up to €123 billion in benefits (cumulative over six years) for the European Union. When fully implemented, all parties (consumers, SMEs, other corporate) are shown to benefit while banks would retain their current margins. According to the same study, the full implementation would lead to gains annually for the UK of 0.15% of GDP. That would be between 0.08% and 0.17% of GDP for other countries of the European Union.

The study by Capgemini is published under the title "SEPA: the benefits at stake" and available on the European Commission's website.

Electricians: Females

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the proportion of electricians who are women; and if he will make a statement. [65852]

Mr Davey: Estimates of employment by type of occupation are available from the Annual Production Survey (APS).

Individuals' occupations are recorded in accordance with the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2010. For the period January to December 2010 women accounted for 1% of the total number of people in employment in the SOC category 'Electricians and electrical fitters'.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the contribution by the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 450, on regulation (EU Directives), when he expects the EU waste electrical and electronic equipment directive to be agreed; and what interim guidance he has given to industry on the existing directive. [68786]

Mr Prisk: I currently expect negotiations for the recast EU waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive to be concluded by early 2012. My Department will continue to consult stakeholders for their views and inform them of progress as negotiations continue.

Comprehensive guidance on compliance with the requirements of current UK WEEE regulations is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/weee

Employment: Overseas Investment

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number of jobs and *(b)* share of the workforce that were (i) directly and (ii) indirectly dependent on the export of goods or services to other EU member states in (A) the latest period for which figures are available, (B) 2005, (C) 2000, (D) 1995, (E) 1990, (F) 1985 and (G) 1981; and if he will make a statement. [66959]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* BIS has estimated that in 2006 3.5 million jobs were linked directly and indirectly to the UK's trade with the EU, representing around 12% of UK's work force. This is based on the assumption that the share of UK employment linked to trade with the EU is equal to the share of total UK value added generated in the production of goods exported to the EU.

This is the most recent estimate available and no similar comparisons have been made over time.

EU Internal Trade

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made on the stage of completion of the single market in services and the digital economy. [69303]

Mr Davey: The Government believe that there continues to be scope to improve the single market in services. One important element of this should be to fully and effectively implement the services directive, which would boost EU GDP by 2.8%. The European Commission will produce a report by the end of this year on how well EU member states have implemented the directive to date and is also carrying out legal assessments (so-called "performance checks") to ensure that the services directive is working in practice. The UK will work closely with the European Commission to take forward this work.

We also consider the digital economy as being of enormous economic significance and support many of the initiatives proposed by the European Commission in the 2010 Digital Agenda.

Our priorities include: an EU copyright management system to create an improved market for intellectual property; encouraging private sector provision of a sustainable infrastructure capable of providing super-fast broadband connections for all UK citizens; and we have supported a package of measures to strengthen the consumer confidence in buying goods online, including a new consumer rights directive, the introduction of an alternative dispute resolution for online trading and a communication on the e-commerce directive.

Further Education: Offenders

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from further education colleges regarding the provision of offender learning programmes. [69649]

Mr Hayes: I have had no representations from further education colleges recently about the provision of offender learning programmes.

A number of further education colleges responded to the call for evidence which informed the review of offender learning I commissioned last year. I launched "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", the report on the review, at the Association of Colleges' offender learning conference in May, and took the opportunity whilst there to speak to representatives from further education colleges that provide offender learning. In addition, I have regular meetings with Martin Doel, chief executive of the Association of Colleges, and offender learning is often on our agenda.

Green Investment Bank

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Green Investment Bank will fund *(a)* proven and *(b)* emerging technologies to accelerate private sector investment in the UK's transition to a green economy. [69881]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be an enduring financial institution, and as such it will need to make investments that are expected to make a positive return. The GIB will focus on mobilising additional capital into a wide range of green infrastructure and the deployment of late-stage technologies, and, while there are no plans for a wider role at this stage, this will remain subject to further review.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of Higher Education Funding Council supported students entering university for the first time in England with the equivalent of A level grades of AAB or higher *(a)* were UK domiciled and *(b)* had studied at (i) independent schools, (ii) selective state schools and (iii) state schools or colleges in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [69056]

Mr Willetts: The following table shows the number of entrants in 2009/10 split by school type, AAB threshold and domicile. The table does not show students on medicine, dentistry or Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) courses.

AAB or above[1]

School type[2]	*UK*	*EU*	*UK and EU total*	*School type as percentage of total*
State school	36,500	210	36,710	66
Not state school	11,755	95	11,850	21
Unknown	2,465	4,895	7,360	13
Grand total	50,720	5,200	55,920	100
Domicile as percentage of total	91	9	100	—

[1] This total excludes entrants to medicine, dentistry or PGCE courses.

[2] School type is taken from previous institution attended Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) field PREVINST). All schools or colleges that are not denoted 'independent' are assumed to be state schools. This means that students from sixth-form or further education colleges, for example, are included as being from state schools.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will estimate the potential savings to higher education institutions of removing 20,000 non-AAB student places and offering them to institutions charging £7,500 or less per year in tuition fees; and if he will make a statement; [69058]

(2) if he will estimate the potential effects on the Government's education budget of removing 20,000 non-AAB student places and offering them to institutions charging £7,500 or less per year in tuition fees; and if he will make a statement. [69059]

Mr Willetts: We anticipate that this approach will exert a downward pressure on fees but it is not possible to specify precisely the impacts of this approach on either the Department's budgets or those of higher education institutions.

Higher Education: Leicestershire

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many colleges with 1,000 or more full-time students he expects to be awarded university status in *(a)* Leicester City local authority area and *(b)* Leicestershire and Rutland. [69677]

Mr Willetts: As part of a technical consultation following the publication of the Higher Education White Paper, the Government are currently consulting on the future criteria for university title. The consultation asks for views on the following possible future criteria for gaining university title, consisting of:

Holding Taught Degree Awarding Powers;

At least 1,000 full-time equivalent higher education students, of which at least 750 are studying for a degree;

More than 50% of the full-time equivalent overall student body are studying for a degree; and

Having regard to the principles of good governance in the sector.

The consultation is open until 27 October and is available at:

http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/technical-consultation/

The likelihood of any institution gaining university title in future will depend on the outcomes of this consultation, the final criteria we decide to apply and whether those criteria are met.

Intellectual Property

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to discourage intellectual property businesses from leaving the UK. [69659]

Mr Davey: The Government have broadly accepted the 10 recommendations made by the review of intellectual property and growth led by Professor Ian Hargreaves and will begin consultations on their implementation in the autumn. These proposals will modernise the UK intellectual property system and enable businesses reliant on intellectual property to attract investment, develop new products and services and compete internationally.

The Intellectual Property Office is working with Treasury on the design of the Patent Box tax regime, a key initiative which will improve the competitiveness of the UK corporate tax regime for companies which develop and exploit intellectual property. This will provide an additional incentive for companies in the UK to retain and commercialise existing patents and to develop new innovative patented products.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to commission a review of intellectual property in the next 12 months. [69660]

Mr Davey: In "The Plan for Growth" published on 23 March the Government made a commitment that following the completion of the Hargreaves Review,

> "no further broad reviews of intellectual property would be conducted during the lifetime of this Parliament."

The Government have not changed their position on this matter.

Following the publication on 3 August of the Government response to the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth the Government will launch their programme of consultation in the autumn. The response broadly accepted all of the Hargreaves recommendations and the Government will be seeking views on how the recommendations should be implemented.

Overseas Students: EU Nationals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his latest estimate is of the Resource Accounting Budget charge for student fee loans for EU students studying in England under *(a)* the current fee system and *(b)* the fee system for academic year 2012-13, taking into account any change in EU student numbers; and if he will make a statement. [69061]

Mr Willetts: The Government's current estimate of the Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) charge is around 30% for student loans issued under both the current fee system and the system for academic year 2012/13 onwards. There is no separate RAB charge for EU students.

Students: Loans

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints he has received about career development loans taken out with *(a)* Barclays and *(b)* other financial service providers to participate in courses approved by the Learning and Skills Council or its successor bodies in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [69055]

Mr Hayes: The Department shares relevant Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDLs) correspondence with both the Young People's Learning Agency, who are responsible for the administering the programme, and the respective bank(s). This ensures that any issues are sufficiently addressed with responses being provided by the most suitable partner. The correspondence covers a range of areas including questions about the parameters of the programme and comments when an individual has not had an application approved. We are able to provide data on the overall number of PCDL correspondence received by the Department and the Young People's Learning Agency in recent years.

Since April 2007, when the Young People's Learning Agency (then Learning and Skills Council) assumed operational responsibility for PCDLs, around 250,000 application forms have been sent out to interested individuals. In the same period, only 275 pieces of correspondence have been submitted to the Young People's Learning Agency regarding PCDLs. The Department's PCDL policy team has dealt with 40 letters since PCDLs replaced career development loans in July 2009. In total, there have been 27 parliamentary questions raised in regard to the programme.

From September 2011, the responsibility for administering the programme and the contractual relationships with the banks resides with the Skills Funding Agency.

The lending banks deal with any direct complaints through their own procedures. All complaints are aggregated to business unit level and figures are not available on a product-specific basis to the Department. It is therefore not possible to provide details on the specific number of complaints that the banks have received that relate to PCDLs.

Supermarkets: Competition

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has considered the merits of referring the matter of the level of competition between supermarkets and small independent retailers to the Competition Commission. [69238]

Mr Davey: No. Referrals to the Competition Commission are normally made by the Office of Fair Trading, who need reasonably to suspect market features restrict, prevent or distort competition.

Third Sector

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the name is of each charity and voluntary organisation Ministers in his Department have visited since 12 May 2010. [67814]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 19 July 2011]*: This information is not readily available and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Trade Agreements

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential benefits to economic growth and trade of bilateral free trade agreements with *(a)* India, *(b)* Canada, *(c)* Japan, *(d)* Mercosur and *(e)* the ASEAN nations. [69304]

Mr Davey: Concluding ambitious Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with India, Canada, Japan, Mercosur and ASEAN countries would bring substantial economic gains to the EU and the UK. European Commission impact assessments available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/analysis/sustainability-impact-assessments/assessments/

show that the potential benefits to the EU from these FTAs would range from a few billion to over 30 billion euros per year. The UK would gain a significant proportion of these benefits.

Trade: EU Countries

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* national and *(b)* household income of trade with other EU member states in each year since 1981; and if he will make a statement. [67079]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* There is no estimate available for the effect of trade with EU member states on UK national income as the consequences of the counterfactual, the absence of trade with these countries, are particularly difficult to establish. However, there is no doubt that the single market is important to the UK's prosperity: it gives UK business access to the world's largest market with 500 million people generating about £10 trillion economic activity. EU countries account for half of the UK's overall trade and foreign investments. As a result, around 3.5 million jobs in the UK are linked to the export of goods and services to the EU. Available estimates show that the greater level of trade liberalisation achieved through the single market leads EU countries to trading currently twice as much with each other as they would do otherwise. As a result, the single market may be responsible for income gains in the UK between 2% and 6%, that is between £1,100 and £3,300 a year per British household.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is publishing a series of economic studies on trade related issues, as part of its work on the Trade and Investment White Paper. As these are being published, they are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

UK Trade & Investment Business Link

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has issued directions to staff in *(a)* UK Trade & Investment and *(b)* Business Links on communications with hon. Members about potential (i) job losses and (ii) organisational changes within each organisation. [68076]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* The Department has not issued any directions to staff in regional Business Links or in UK Trade & Investment about communications with hon. Members about potential job losses or organisational changes.

York College: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding was allocated to York College by the Skills Funding Agency, Young People's Learning Agency and their predecessor in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 2005. [65594]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the participation funding that has been allocated to York College by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), the Skills Funding Agency ("the Agency") and their predecessor, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), in each of the years requested, alongside the corresponding real terms value of these allocations.

York College—Funding allocations 2004/05 to 2010/11

£

	Academic year	*Cash allocation*[1]	*Real terms*[2]
Skills Funding Agency/ YPLA	2010/11	£20,952,651	£20,952,651
Transition from LSC to Agency and YPLA			
Learning and Skills Council	2009/10	£18,183,990	£18,723,219
	2008/09	£18,371,393	£19,224,178
	2007/08	£18,240,652	£19,615,503
	2006/07	£16,735,817	£18,512,867
	2005/06	£16,207,629	£18,530,417
	2004/05	£15,519,000	£18,064,884

[1] Source: YPLA, LSC and Agency allocation data for 16-18 and 19+ participation.

[2] These figures have been calculated using HM Treasury Deflators, last updated 28 June 2011.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 September 2011

PRIME MINISTER

Abdelbaset al-Megrahi

Gordon Banks: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with *(a)* the First Minister of Scotland and *(b)* other Ministers in the Scottish Government on the possible return to the UK of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi since 1 February 2011. [70305]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 25.

Lost Property

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Prime Minister what property has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from 10 Downing street in the last 12 months; and what the cost of replacement was. [66581]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 5 September 2011 *Official Report*, column 261W.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67906]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the details of my overseas travel which is published quarterly on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

I travel using the most efficient and cost effective arrangements.

My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel as set out in the Ministerial Code.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69267]

Mr Paterson: Following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office became a much smaller Department with limited requirements to procure and purchase in our own right. Where there is a need to procure/purchase, this is arranged through the Department of Finance and Personnel/Ministry of Justice. Where appropriate, the NIO will adopt the methodology laid out in the Efficiency and Reform Group's new efficiency regime.

SCOTLAND

Air Force

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the campaign groups opposed to the closure of *(a)* RAF Lossiemouth and *(b)* RAF Leuchars. [68129]

David Mundell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland last met with the Chairman of the Leuchars Task Force on Monday 27 June and representatives of the Moray Task Force on Thursday 30 June, to discuss their final concerns ahead of the Basing Review announcement in July. As implementation of the proposals gets under way, discussions with local communities will continue to ensure smooth transition.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many senior civil servants in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the office of the Advocate-General at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements (i) his Department and (ii) the office of the Advocate-General had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised each in each such year. [68962]

David Mundell: No senior civil servants worked for any of the companies named immediately prior to taking up appointment in either the Scotland Office or the Office of the Advocate-General. No consultancy agreements have been made with these firms in this period.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68751]

David Mundell: During June 2011 my Department received 10 letters from hon. Members.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what methodology his Department used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69280]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not generally undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises framework contracts between suppliers and other Government bodies. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69503]

David Mundell: Since 1 July 2011 the Scotland Office has had one unpaid intern. This was arranged as part of the Whitehall Internship Programme. There were no other persons undertaking unpaid work experience or other persons in unpaid positions working in the Department in this period.

Fuel Poverty

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on levels of fuel poverty in Scotland. [69621]

Michael Moore: I am in regular contact with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on a range of issues, including those relevant to fuel poverty.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met *(a)* Scottish Ministers and *(b)* representatives from the main energy suppliers in Scotland to discuss fuel poverty in Scotland; and what the outcome of those discussions was. [69622]

Michael Moore: Following the announcements earlier this summer from the main energy suppliers of their intention to increase domestic gas and electricity prices, I met officials from the electricity and gas markets' independent regulator, Ofgem, to raise my concerns about the impact this may have on households in Scotland.

I am in regular contact with Scottish Ministers and representatives from the main energy suppliers in Scotland on energy issues, including those relevant to fuel poverty.

Green Investment Bank

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the possible location of the Green Investment Bank in Edinburgh. [69624]

Michael Moore: I regularly meet with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to discuss a wide range of issues, including the Green Investment Bank. I also meet regularly with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whose Department is leading on the establishment of the Green Investment Bank.

In all relevant discussions, we have discussed Edinburgh's case to host the Bank.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Females

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* Scottish ministers regarding (i) the July 2011 Labour Market Statistics and (ii) trends in the number of female claimants of jobseeker's allowance. [69623]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions about the number of people in Scotland claiming jobseeker's allowance and trends in labour market statistics. When I met the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth in July we discussed youth unemployment in Scotland.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Football: Females

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 291W, on football: females, what specific actions the Football Association is taking to ensure that girls in Hull do not lose out; [68656]

(2) what the criteria were which the Football Association used in carrying out its review of girls' talent development. [68657]

Hugh Robertson: I am assured that the Football Association (FA) has in place adequate provision for girls' football in Hull and other parts of the country. Its website provides further details of the advice and help on offer:

http://www.thefa.com/GetIntoFootball/Players/PlayersPages/WomensAndGirls/FAGirlsCentresOfExcellence

I would encourage the hon. Lady to contact the FA directly to update her on this situation.

The criteria used to select the Football Association's Girls Centres are a matter entirely for the governing body.

Libraries

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered the merits of establishing a national digital library service. [70178]

Mr Vaizey: We have no plans at present to establish a national digital library service. However, local authorities continue to provide remote access for their users to catalogues, e-books and online reference resources and the UK remains a partner in Europeana—the European Digital Library network which provides access, through its website, to objects from cultural institutions within the European Union.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of value added tax on eligible repair and maintenance works he expects to be repaid to religious groups who have put in an application under the new rules of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in September 2011. [69907]

John Penrose: The new rules for the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme 2011-12 were announced in March 2011. Under the new scheme, the available budget will be divided into quarterly budgets and then shared pro-rata between all claims received. Obviously we hope that the budget will cover the full rate of VAT for all claimants but, if it does not, an apportionment will be made and this will be announced on the Listed Places of Worship website. The first payments in this financial year are due to be made at the end of the second quarter.

By returning to the pre-2006 scope of the scheme we estimate that the available budget should be sufficient to pay all claims in full but, given the high volatility of claims in the past, it is impossible to predict with certainty at this stage. I will not be in a position to confirm whether claims can be paid in full until all claims for the first quarter of the year have been submitted and processed. The rate of payment will be published on the Listed Places of Worship website once this process is complete.

Neil Wallis

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what communications *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his private office and *(d)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers of his Department have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with Neil Wallis since his appointment; and on what dates. [68736]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department does not keep a central record of all staff communications and a definitive answer could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Meetings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what communications *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his private office and *(d)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers of his Department have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with (1) Rebekah Brooks, (2) Rupert Murdoch, (3) James Murdoch, (4) Les Hinton, (5) other representatives of News International or News Corporation, (6) Ed Llewellyn, (7) Andy Coulson and (8) John Yates since 21 December 2010; and on what dates. [68742]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A list of my meetings with media organisations has been published on the DCMS website, and can be found using the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/2011/07/26/sos-meetings-with-proprietors-editors-and-senior-media-executives-11may1-15jul11

Information about ministerial, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary's meetings with outside interest groups is published quarterly on the Department's transparency website. Details can found using the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/2011/07/

Records of meetings, telephone calls held between officials and press officers with outside parties and records of telephone calls and email exchanges between officials and Ministers and outside parties are not recorded centrally and would incur a disproportionate cost to collect.

All my letters regarding the merger have been published at:

http://www.culture.gov.Uk/what_we_do/media_mergers/7880.aspx#1

A search of the Department's centrally recorded database shows that James Murdoch sent three letters to me, during the period stated. There is no record of written correspondence between Ministers and the other individuals listed.

A search for correspondence from officials, press officers and special advisers to and from all the individuals listed would incur disproportionate cost to collect.

Radio Frequencies

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions he has had with the mobile operators to reach agreement on the proposed auction of the 800MHz and 2,600MHz spectrum by mid 2012; [70372]

(2) whether he has had recent discussions with Ofcom on the use of statutory powers to direct Ofcom to proceed with an auction of the 800MHz and 2,600MHz spectrum in the event of a legal challenge to the regulator's auction proposals. [70373]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom was directed to take a number of actions relating to spectrum in December 2010, including carrying out a combined auction of 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum as soon as possible. Ofcom consulted recently on auction design but has yet to take any final decisions on how it will proceed. Consequently I have had no discussions with Ofcom about a possible further direction in the event of a legal challenge to its proposals. The operators have expressed their concerns with the Ofcom proposals to me and I have stressed to them the Government's wish to see this auction take place as early as possible in 2012.

CABINET OFFICE

Key Data: Publication

9. **Graham Evans:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the publication of key data relating to the NHS, school, courts and transport services on their performance. [69989]

10. **Greg Hands:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the publication of key data relating to the NHS, school, courts and transport services on their performance. [69990]

Mr Maude: Open data can be transformative for public services, practitioners and users. We have already seen this in the health context where death rates in coronary artery surgery, for example, have fallen as a result of public reporting of outcomes. We have committed to release a wealth of new data on other public services which we hope will increase accountability and performance.

Government Software Procurement

11. **Bob Blackman:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department has made on the use of open standards when specifying ICT requirements in central Government software procurement. [69991]

Mr Maude: We published new policy on the Use of Open Standards when specifying ICT requirements in January 2011. That made open standards much more mandatory and makes it clear to Departments that they should ensure they include open standards in their ICT procurement specifications.

Pension Reform

12. **Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress the Government have made on engagement with the unions on pension reform. [69992]

Mr Maude: The Government are meeting with the Trades Union Congress tomorrow as part of the ongoing talks on public sector pension reform, which were set up at the request of the unions.

Public service pensions will remain among the very best, providing a guaranteed pension level for all employees. Today very few private sector employers still offer guaranteed pension levels.

But people today are living much longer—the average 60 year old is living 10 years longer now than they did in the 70s.

And we are asking employees to pay more towards the cost of their pension. This makes for a fairer balance between what employees pay and what other taxpayers have to pay.

While scheme specific consultations on proposed year one pension contribution increases are already under way, there is still much to discuss with the unions centrally about wider, long-term pensions reform.

Government Data: Public Access

13. **Mark Menzies:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to ensure that the public can access data released by the Government. [69993]

Mr Maude: The Government are ensuring that:

All published government data are linked to data.gov.uk, which provides an easy way for the public to find and download data.

That data are clear and relevant; and that the public can compare standardised information on spending or services.

That data are provided in a user friendly format, for example, the civil service organograms and street level crime mapping on police.uk.

As a result the UK Government are leading the world on releasing Government data.

Ministerial Accommodation

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Ministers have been allocated accommodation in *(a)* Admiralty Arch and *(b)* Admiralty House; how much his Department has spent on minor works, refurbishment, fittings and fixtures in relation to these residences since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [69793]

Mr Maude: Admiralty Arch is not used as residential accommodation. The Secretary of State for Defence has the use of a flat in Admiralty House. The Cabinet Office has not incurred expenditure on minor works, refurbishment, fittings and fixtures in relation to the residences at Admiralty House since May 2010.

Cancer: Mortality Rates

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the national mortality rates for bladder cancer were in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [70163]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the national mortality rates for bladder cancer were in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11. (070163)

Table 1 attached provides the age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000, where bladder cancer was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, for the years 2009 and 2010 (the latest year available). Figures are also provided for England and Wales separately.

Figures are provided for calendar years (January to December) to be consistent with routine mortality outputs.

Responsibility for reporting mortality data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is held by the National Records of Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency respectively.

Table 1: Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, where bladder cancer was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, England, and Wales, 2009 and 2010[1,2,3,4]

	Rate per 100,000 population	
Country	*2009*	*2010*
England and Wales	5	5
England	5	5
Wales	5	4

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death for bladder cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C67.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents. Figures for England and Wales separately exclude deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Charity Street Collectors

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the time taken to bring forward regulations to bring the actions of charity street collectors within the scope of enforcing authorities. [69464]

Mr Hurd: Responsibility for the regulations governing the licensing of charitable collections rests with the Cabinet Office. The Charities Act 2006 licensing provisions have not been implemented and will be considered as part of the review of the Charities Act 2006, due to begin later this year. Once the review has made its recommendations I will discuss them with ministerial colleagues. We want to make it easier for legitimate charities to fundraise responsibly, whilst deterring bogus collectors and preventing nuisance for members of the public. Local authorities, trading standards, and the police already have a range of powers to tackle bogus or unlicensed collections and nuisance.

Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has undertaken a comparative analysis of expenditure on procurement by Government Departments per pound procured. [69800]

Mr Maude: To support the Government's mandate to centralise the procurement of common goods and services, the Efficiency and Reform Group in the Cabinet Office undertook an analysis of procurement spend for the 2009-10 financial year. It reviewed spend for specific procurement categories across central Government departments, in order to determine if it could be centralised. We will continue to review spend by Departments in categories that are centralised, in order to ensure the optimum supply strategy is in place for central Government.

Government Departments: Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 250W, on Government Departments: billing, what progress has been made on the publication of Departments' invoice payment performance records on a monthly basis in a single location. [69581]

Mr Maude: On 1 November 2010 the Government reiterated their policy of paying 80% of undisputed invoices within five days and ensuring that prime contractors paid tier two suppliers within 30 days through use of a contract condition. On 19 July I made further announcements to improve payment performance. These included a requirement for Departments to actively contract manage the performance of prime contractors, the Crown Representatives encouraging key suppliers to pay more quickly than in 30 days and encouraging suppliers to report issues of late payment to Cabinet Office's Mystery Shopper service. Departments are not required to publish payment data on a central repository, though some Departments choose to publish performance on departmental websites.

Graduates: Unemployment

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of unemployed graduates in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England and Wales. [70503]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of unemployed graduates in (a) Liverpool, Walton Constituency, (b) Merseyside and (c) England and Wales. (070503)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Whilst the APS does collect data on graduate unemployment, no reliable statistics can be produced for Liverpool, Walton constituency or Merseyside due to small sample sizes.

The latest APS estimates available are for the period January to December 2010. Based on this survey, the number of unemployed people in England and Wales whose highest qualification was degree level or higher was 285,000.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Microsoft

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the amounts paid by Government Departments to Microsoft in annual licence fees *(a)* in total and *(b)* via subcontractors in each of the last five years. [69629]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office is unable to release data in relation to the cost of Microsoft's annual licence fees. These data are commercially sensitive and are covered by a non-disclosure agreement between Cabinet Office and the supplier.

National Insurance Contribution Holiday

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses have been started in *(a)* England, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency since the introduction of the National Insurance Contribution holiday. [70117]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many small businesses have been started in (a) England, (b) Kent and (c) Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency since the introduction of the National Insurance Contribution holiday. [070117]

The requested information is not available. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, as the contribution holiday specified in the National Insurance Contributions Act 2011 relates only to new businesses set up from 22 June 2010 they are not covered by the latest statistics, which relate to business births in 2009. Statistics relating to births of enterprises in 2010 will be available in December 2011.

Pensioners

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many pensioners were resident *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997. [70419]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many pensioners were resident in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) in the North East and (d) nationwide in each year since 1997. (70419)

The attached table shows the number of people of state retirement age resident in the specified areas for each year from mid-1997 to mid-2010. This is the latest year for which population estimates are available.

People of pensionable age for selected areas in United Kingdom mid-1997 to mid-2010[1]

Thousand

	United Kingdom	*North East*	*South Tyneside*	*Jarrow[2]*
1997	10,673.2	481.3	31.6	[3]—
1998	10,716.6	482.7	31.5	[3]—
1999	10,745.1	483.7	31.4	[3]—
2000	10,788.3	485.3	31.3	[3]—
2001	10,845.2	487	31.4	[3]—
2002	10,915.4	488.8	31.4	17.0
2003	11,012	491.7	31.3	17.0
2004	11,117.7	494.4	31.3	17.1
2005	11,232	497.7	31.2	17.0
2006	11,343.8	500.8	31.2	17.0
2007	11,562.6	508.8	31.4	17.2
2008	11,794.2	516.7	31.6	17.3
2009	12,006.9	524.1	31.9	17.5
2010	12,171.2	530.7	32	[3]—

[1] Pensionable age for mid-1997 to mid-2009 is defined as 65 and over for men and 60 and over for women. For mid-2010 pensionable age is defined as 65 and over for men and 60 years 57 days and over for women.

[2] Boundaries are those that came into effect at the May 2010 general election.

[3] Data unavailable.

Source:

Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Job Vacancies

Mr Robinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies available in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Coventry local authority area in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [70345]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of job vacancies available in (a) England, (b) the West Midlands and (c) Coventry local authority area in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. (070345)

Estimates of the number of vacancies for the UK are derived from the ONS Vacancy Survey. However, information on job vacancies below a UK level is only available from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and consequently is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the Vacancy Survey. Currently Jobcentre Plus vacancies account for around half of the total number of vacancies as reported by the Vacancy Survey.

In Table 1, we have provided the number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies for each of the latest 12 months for which figures are available for Coventry, the West Midlands and England.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies. July 2010 to July 2011[1]

Date	*Coventry*	*West midlands*	*England*
2010			
July	2,524	34,463	248,642
August	2,397	32,678	246,434
September	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
October	3,271	39,908	286,526
November	3,483	39,483	288,108
December	2,774	32,751	238,265
2011			
January	2,651	26,897	202,861
February	2,122	28,414	230,129
March	2,122	29,334	214,061
April	1,846	33,507	224,392
May.	1,810	27,428	201,205
June	1,891	30,536	226,460
July	2,057	32,699	233,301

[1] Data for September 2010 are not currently available.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 September 2011

JUSTICE

Chief Coroner

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from which organisations he has received representations in support of the abolition of the office of Chief Coroner under the provisions of the Public Bodies Bill. [69983]

Mr Djanogly: We have not received any representations from organisations in support of abolishing the office of Chief Coroner. The Government propose to retain the office in statute, and to transfer the majority of the functions to either the Lord Chief Justice or Lord Chancellor.

Civil Disorder

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been charged as a result of the public disorder on *(a)* 6, *(b)* 7, *(c)* 8, *(d)* 9 and *(e)* 10 August 2011; and with what offences; [69917]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* granted bail, *(b)* remanded in custody, *(c)* cautioned, *(d)* given an absolute discharge and *(e)* given a conditional discharge as a result of the public disorder on (i) 6, (ii) 7, (iii) 8, (iv) 9 and (v) 10 August 2011; and if he will make a statement. [69918]

Mr Blunt: We are currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

As the publication notes the Chief Statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. It is intended to release further data on 8 September. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the largest sum awarded by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to a victim of attack by a dog was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [69352]

(2) how much was awarded by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to victims of attacks by dogs in each of the last five years, for which figures are available; [69353]

(3) how many awards were made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to victims of attacks by dogs in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [69354]

(4) how many claims were made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority by victims of attacks by dogs in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [69355]

Mr Djanogly: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) does not have reliable figures for this. Compensation for victims of violent crime is based on the injuries people sustain not the particular crimes of which they were a victim. The injuries for which CICA can compensate, and therefore provide reliable figures for, are set out in the Tariff of Injuries in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008, but the Tariff does not contain any injuries specific to dog attacks.

It is worth noting that victims of animal attacks are not eligible to receive compensation from CICA unless it can be shown that their injuries resulted from a crime of violence, within the terms of the Scheme, on the part of the person controlling the animal.

Divorce Courts: Fees and Charges

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse of remission of court fees in divorce proceedings was in each of the last five financial years. [70526]

Mr Djanogly: HMCTS does not hold data centrally regarding the amount of income foregone to fee remission broken down by fee charge type for fee charges collected in the family county courts.

Income foregone to remission is published (by business stream) in the HMCTS Resource Accounts. In 2010-11 income foregone to remission for family business was £16.6 million.

EU Justice and Home Affairs

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which third pillar EU measures for which his Department is responsible have not yet been implemented; by what date each such measure will be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [69551]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There are between 80 and 90 Acts currently in force that were adopted before 1 December 2009 under the Police and Criminal Judicial Co-operation chapter (Title VI) of the Treaty on the European Union (third pillar measures). This list is subject to change as Acts that are repealed and replaced or amended by new instruments. Approximately 18 of these are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, the majority of which have been implemented.

Article 10 of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions (Protocol 36) to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to the Treaty on European Union applies to these Acts, under which the UK has the right to opt out (en bloc) from all these measures in 2014 when they will become subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. The UK must decide whether or not to opt out by 31 May 2014. The Government are therefore considering the implementation of the remaining measures in light of the wider process for making that decision. In accordance with the written ministerial statement given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS, Parliament will be kept informed of developments.

Immigration Advisory Service

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when his received notification of the entry into administration of the Immigration Advisory Service; [69594]

(2) when he was first made aware of the financial situation at the Immigration Advisory Service; [69595]

(3) how many people were in receipt of services from the Immigration Advisory Service at the time of its entry into administration; [69596]

(4) what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the entry into administration of the Immigration Advisory Service. [69597]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice received notification of the Immigration Advisory Service's (IAS) entry into administration on Friday 8 July.

The Ministry was informed that the IAS's financial position was such that the trustees were concerned about whether the organisation could continue to operate on Tuesday 28 June.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. An act of assistance is each instance in which a provider opens a new matter to advise or assist a client. It is important to note that an individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance and one act of assistance can help more than one person. As at 11 July 2011, there were 8,140 open acts of assistance identified from the IAS case management system.

The LSC is working with the administrators to establish the value of claims for work that had not been submitted for payment when Immigration Asylum Service (IAS) entered administration. These claims will be offset against any sum that is confirmed as being owed to the LSC as a result of the Contract Compliance Audit, which has not yet concluded.

Knives: Young Offenders

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many individuals aged 18 or younger were prosecuted for carrying a bladed or pointed article in a public place in England and Wales in each year since 2006; [69433]

(2) how many individuals aged 18 or younger received custodial sentences for carrying a bladed or pointed article in a public place in England and Wales in each year since 2006. [69434]

Mr Blunt: Persons aged 18 and under proceeded against at magistrates courts and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for carrying a bladed or pointed article in a public place in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Persons aged 18 and under proceeded against at magistrates courts and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for carrying a bladed or pointed article in a public place, England and Wales, 2006-10[1, 2, 3]

Statute	*Offence*		*Proceeded against*	*Immediate custody*
Criminal Justice Act 1988, S.139	Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	2006	1,853	111
		2007	1,834	126
		[4]2008	1,826	163
		2009	1,957	181
		2010	1,613	130

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The figures presented here have been taken from the Ministry of Justices court proceedings database and are a record of the sentences passed in courts; they will differ from the figures presented in the figures published in the Knife Crime Sentencing--Quarterly brief which are drawn from the Police National Computer.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Latchmere House Prison

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to enable those who lose their jobs at HM Prison Latchmere House to access alternative vacancies. [69382]

Mr Blunt: The closure of Latchmere House prison will result in the loss of 79 staff posts. All staff are being offered alternative employment at other prisons or young offender institutions within the Greater London region or elsewhere. Five staff who were eligible to do so have decided to leave the Prison Service and formally retire. In line with the Service's procedures for redeployment and prison closures, staff have been offered suitable alternative employment at a location within approximately 60 minutes travelling distance of their home. Any additional travelling costs incurred by the change of location are met by the Service for a limited period to ease the process of transition.

Insolvency

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on the ability of insolvency practitioners to recover money that funds activities including *(a)* carousel fraud, *(b)* terrorist activities and *(c)* alcohol fraud; [70284]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* small businesses and *(c)* the ability of insolvency practitioners to pursue recoveries from delinquent directors in insolvency litigation. [70285]

Mr Djanogly: As I stated in my answers of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 835W, and 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 893W, my officials are in ongoing contact with HMRC and Insolvency Service officials, to discuss the impact of the reforms on insolvency proceedings.

Prison Accommodation

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the usable operational capacity of the prison estate was for *(a)* Prison Service establishment for adult offenders, *(b)* National Offender Management Service operated immigration removal centres, *(c)* young offender institutions and *(d)* secure children's homes on 5 August 2011. [69803]

Mr Blunt: Usable operational capacity is the sum of all establishments' operational capacity, as set out in the following table, less 2,000 places. This is known as the operating margin and reflects the constraints imposed by the need to provide separate accommodation for different classes of prisoner i.e. by sex, age, security category, conviction status, single cell risk assessment and also due to geographical distribution.

Usable operational capacity for the NOMS custodial estate on 5 August 2011 was 88,039. The operating margin is not broken down by prison or type of accommodation and therefore an answer cannot be provided based on usable operational capacity.

Excluding the operating margin, the total operational capacity of the different segments of the NOMS custodial estate on 5 August 2011 is set out in the table. Where more than one type of accommodation is provided on the same site, the predominant function of the establishment has been used.

Type	*Operational capacity*
Adult Prison Accommodation	[1]81,323
Young Offender Institutions	[1]7,836
NOMS Operated IRCs	[1]880

[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Of the 305 secure children's homes licensed places, the YJB currently contracts 183 places, all of which were available on 5 August 2011. The YJB has an agreement with the Department for Education to spot purchase, where necessary, vacant welfare beds in addition to the YJB contracted number.

Prisoners: Sexual Offences

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners with convictions for sex offences have been released *(a)* from prisons on the Isle of Wight and *(b)* from category (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C and (iv) D prisons in each of the last three years. [70296]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of prisoners serving determinate sentences for sex offences who were discharged from prison in 2008, 2009 and 2010 by type of discharging prison. Prisons are classified according to their predominant function. Security categories A, B, C, and D relate to categories of adult male prisoner and do not directly relate to individual establishments. So, for example, an establishment categorised as security category B may hold offenders of all categories up to, but not above, B. Female prisoners and young offenders are not categorised in this way. Cluster prisons have been shown separately because they hold a wide range of security categories and cannot be easily simplified as a single category of prison.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Offenders released from prison having served a determinate sentence for sex offences, by function of discharging prison, 2008-10

	2008	*2009*[1]	*2010*
High Security prisons holding sentenced and remand prisoners up to Category A	83	38	88
Local and training prisons holding sentenced and remand prisoners up to Category B	715	353	655
Training prisons holding sentenced prisoners up to Category C	1,263	594	1,426
Open prisons taking Category D prisoners	33	6	26
Female prisons	24	20	29
YOIs	124	59	122
Cluster prisons	84	25	72
Of which:			
Isle of Wight[2]	34	9	37

[1] Due to the roll-out of a new case management system (Prison-NOMIS) in May 2009, offence and sentence length data for the period 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2009 are not available. These release figures are therefore based on the period 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009.

[2] On 1 April 2009, three prisons (HMPs Albany, Camp Hill and Parkhurst) merged to become HMP Isle of Wight.

Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* prisoner population and *(b)* total usable operational capacity is in each prison in England and Wales. [70082]

Mr Blunt: Usable operational capacity is the sum of all establishments' operational capacity, as set out in the table provided, less 2,000 places. This is known as the operating margin and reflects the constraints imposed by the need to provide separate accommodation for different classes of prisoner i.e. by sex, age, security category, conviction status, single cell risk assessment and also due to geographical distribution.

The operating margin is not broken down by prison or by type of accommodation and therefore an answer cannot be provided based on usable operational capacity.

Excluding the operating margin, the total operational capacity and population of each prison in the NOMS custodial estate on 26 August 2011 is set out in the table. This information is published monthly on the MOJ website via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/prison-population-figures/index.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of what size of prison population is required to enact Operation Safeguard. [70081]

Mr Blunt: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 188W. Operation Safeguard is required when the size or distribution of the prison population is such that it can no longer be managed within the available capacity.

Pressures in managing the population arise from a number of factors. These include the size of particular demographic sections of the prison population and capacity available to accommodate those segments, the geographic distribution of population between regions and NOMS ability to transfer prisoners to maximise the use of space, and whether there are any sudden local increases in population or losses of accommodation.

Our position remains that as the total population approaches within approximately 1% of the prison estate's useable operational capacity, the risk of potentially requiring police cells under Operation Safeguard increases and more rigorous assessment of population pressures are required.

Sentencing

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* given an absolute discharge and *(c)* given a conditional discharge for each offence with a minimum custodial sentence of (i) five years, (ii) between 12 months and four years and (iii) under 12 months in each of the last five years. [69802]

Mr Blunt: The offences that carry mandatory minimum custodial sentences within the scope of the question are as follows.

Minimum custodial sentence of five years

The only offence in this category is possession of a prohibited firearm by an adult. Table 1 shows the number of offenders cautioned and sentenced (including absolute discharges and conditional discharges) at all courts, by result, for possession of a prohibited firearm in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010 (latest available).

Minimum custodial sentence between 12 months and four years

There are two offences in this category: possession of a prohibited firearm by a 16-17 year old, and a third domestic burglary. For both of these offences the mandatory minimum is three years. Table 1 includes details of cautions, absolute discharges and conditional discharges for the first of these offences. Table 2 shows the number of third time domestic burglary offenders, by type of sentence in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010 (including absolute discharges and conditional discharges). Cautions data are not available for third time domestic burglary offences.

Minimum custodial sentences under 12 months

No offences carry a mandatory minimum custodial sentence under 12 months.

Relevant legislation provides that the mandatory minimum sentence is not required to be imposed where the court finds that it would be unjust to do so.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Table 1: Offenders cautioned and sentenced at all courts for firearms offences[1] liable for mandatory minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[2] England and Wales 2006-10[5, 6]

		2006	2007	2008[7]	2009	2010
16-17 year olds (mandatory minimum—at least 3 years[3])	Cautioned[9]	11	15	7	2	2
	Total sentenced	15	15	20	19	18
	Immediate custody	8	5	17	18	17
	Absolute discharge	—	—	—	—	—
	Conditional discharge	—	2	—	—	—
	Other sentences[8]	7	8	3	1	1
18 years and above (mandatory minimum—at least 5 years[4])	Cautioned[9]	197	146	115	75	45
	Total sentenced	265	249	340	360	308
	Immediate custody	202	202	288	298	250
	Absolute discharge	—	—	—	1	—
	Conditional discharge	4	6	4	4	5

Table 1: Offenders cautioned and sentenced at all courts for firearms offences[1] liable for mandatory minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[2] England and Wales 2006-10[5, 6]

		2006	2007	2008[7]	2009	2010
	Other sentences[8]	59	41	48	57	53

[1] Offences under Firearms Act 1968 of: Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, or Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object.

[2] The mandatory minimum sentence is only applicable for offences that occurred on or after 26 January 2004.

[3] Mandatory minimum for persons aged 16 or 17 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is 3 years. Not all of those in this age bracket would have been eligible for the mandatory minimum as they may have been under 16 at the time of the offence; it is the age at the point of sentence that is recorded on the court proceedings database

[4] Mandatory minimum for persons aged over 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is 5 years. Not all of those in this age bracket would have been eligible for the mandatory minimum as they may have been under 18 at the time of the offence; it is the age at the point of sentence that is recorded on courts proceedings database.

[5] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[7] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[8] Includes Fines, Community Sentences, Suspended Sentences and other sentences.

[9] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence. From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of third time domestic burglary offenders[1, 2, 3, 4] by gender and type of sentence received, England and Wales, 2006-10

All offenders	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Absolute discharge	—	1	—	—	—
Conditional discharge	3	2	6	4	5
Fine	1	2	1	—	—
Community sentences	34	38	38	34	52
Fully suspended	23	36	51	38	37
Immediate custody	434	500	620	692	778
Other	3	14	22	21	29
All offenders	498	593	738	789	901

[1] Aged 18 and over at the time of the third offence.

[2] Excluding one male offender who was recorded as sentenced to life imprisonment by a magistrates court.

[3] If an offender was convicted of three or more domestic burglary offences on separate occasions under the age of 18, the first subsequent conviction for domestic burglary at the age of 18 or over has been counted.

[4] Legislation for third domestic burglary was introduced in 2000. The detail can be found in Power of Criminal Court (Sentencing) Act S111:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/

Wormwood Scrubs Prison

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on Wormwood Scrubs prison, whether HMP Wormwood Scrubs has received payment from Mentron. [69109]

Mr Blunt: Wormwood Scrubs prison received the payment of £2,000 from Mentorn production company on 17 August 2011, in relation to facilitating the Question Time programme for the BBC.

Young Offender Institutions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* offender population and *(b)* total operational capacity is of each young offender institution in England and Wales. [70389]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the population and operational capacity of establishments whose predominant function was a male Young Offender Institution (including those YOIs where places are commissioned exclusively by the Youth Justice Board) in the NOMS custodial estate on the 26 August 2011.

Predominant Function YOI	*Population*	*Operational Capacity*
Ashfield	367	383
Aylesbury	437	444
Brinsford	563	577
Cookham Wood	115	143
Deerbolt	491	513
Feltham	722	762
Glen Parva	778	808
Hindley	378	440
Isis	485	622
Lancaster Farms	431	530
Northallerton	194	252
Portland	491	505
Reading	244	293
Rochester	617	664
Thorn Cross	299	322
Warren Hill	124	128
Werrington	134	160
Wetherby	382	407
Total	7,252	7,953

This information is published monthly on the MOJ website via the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/prison-population-figures/index.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Youth Justice Board

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will withdraw the proposal in the Public Bodies Bill to abolish the Youth Justice Board. [69979]

Mr Blunt: The Government believe that youth justice, which can in some cases involve the detention of children, is an issue for which Ministers—not an arm's length body—should be directly accountable.

My right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice set out his plans for the future national governance of youth justice in his written ministerial statement of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS. It remains our intention to abolish the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and to deliver its key functions from within a newly created Youth Justice Division in the Ministry of Justice. We have tabled a Government amendment to the Public Bodies Bill seeking to reintroduce the YJB into schedule 1 to the Bill. The YJB will therefore be included in the list of bodies which may be abolished by order.

In July 2011, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) launched a public consultation on the proposals for reform of the majority of MOJ bodies in the Bill to ensure that as many interested parties as possible could contribute views. The consultation closes on 11 October and the views expressed will be carefully considered before any draft orders are made.

TREASURY

Arch Cru Fund

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the policy of his Department is on compensation for investors in the Arch Cru fund. [68405]

(2) what the policy of his Department is on the establishment of an inquiry into the supervisory arrangements by the Financial Services Authority of the Arch Cru fund; [68406]

(3) what meetings he has had with representatives of Arch Cru fund investors. [68413]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for the regulation of financial services firms and operates independently from Government under the powers given to it in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. HM Treasury sets the legal framework for the regulation of financial services, but does not have investigative or prosecuting powers of its own.

In relation to Arch Cru funds, Capita Financial Managers Limited (CFM) announced that "The FSA will, in due course, be publishing a statement of its findings in relation to CFM's role regarding the Arch Cru funds". The FSA is continuing to look at the issues surrounding the Arch Cru funds, and it would not be appropriate to comment before this work is completed.

The Treasury has received representations on this issue from a range of stakeholders, but it is not the Government's practice to disclose details of all such representations.

Banks: Regulation

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the division of banking regulation powers between the Bank of England and his Department; and if he will make a statement. [69628]

Mr Hoban: The Government has completed two consultations on its plans to reform the UK's system of financial services regulation. Written responses are available on the Treasury's website. In June we published a third consultation document and White Paper, including draft legislation. The consultation closes on 8 September 2011 and can be found on the Treasury's website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_finreg_blueprint.htm

Mobile Communications

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mobile telephones and Blackberrys were provided to staff in his Department between (a) November 1999 and June 2001, (b) May 2002 and June 2007 and (c) June 2007 and January 2008; and what the total cost to the public purse was of (i) line rental, (i) insurance and (iii) purchase of such telecommunications' equipment. [68326]

Justine Greening: Information on portable computers, Blackberry and other mobile phone devices made available for the use of individuals prior to the creation of a shared IT service for HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in April 2007 could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The number of handsets provided in the years 2007 and 2008 are broken down as follows:

Year	*Mobile telephones*	*Blackberrys*
2007	25	60
2008	91	203

It is not possible to determine the number of handsets between specific months within the year.

The Treasury does not record the costs of acquiring or using Blackberry devices (being all-in-one mobile phones, email devices, web browsers and organisers) or similar devices separately from other telecommunications costs, so the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the (a) date, (b) location, (c) number of attendees and (d) cost to the public purse was for each (i) away day and (ii) team building activity organised for staff in his Department between (A) November 1999 and June 2001, (b) May 2002 and June 2007 and (C) June 2007 and January 2008. [68337]

Justine Greening: The Treasury collects information on the overall cost of away days and team building events but does not hold a central record of the information requested, which could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

European Commission's Solvency II

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has received advice from the *(a)* Bank of England and *(b)* Financial Services Authority on the effect on annuity prices of the European Commission's Solvency II proposals; and if he will make a statement. [69584]

Mr Hoban: The impact of Solvency II on annuity prices cannot be determined until the final shape of the consolidated package of level 2 Implementing Measures is clear. Negotiations on this package are still ongoing. Through the course of negotiations, HM Treasury officials continue to work closely with officials from the Financial Services Authority and the Bank of England.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the report from the Bank of International Settlements on the potential effects of Solvency II proposals on insurance company investment in UK business or sterling corporate bonds. [69585]

Mr Hoban: Solvency II will require insurers to assess the risks they are exposed to on both the liability and the asset side of the balance sheet, and hold capital commensurate to the underlying risks. A wide range of international organisations have commented on the effects Solvency II could have on the investment patterns of the European insurance industry, including on investment in UK business or sterling corporate bonds. However, the impact cannot be determined until the final shape of the consolidated package of level 2 Implementing Measures is clear. This package is currently under negotiation. The Government gives appropriate and proportionate weight to the views of such organisations when formulating its overall negotiating position.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has made to the European Commission on the Solvency II proposal to treat Eurozone sovereign debt as a minimal risk for the purposes of calculating an insurance company's capital requirements. [69586]

Mr Hoban: Solvency II will require insurers to assess the risks they are exposed to on both the liability and the asset side of the balance sheet, and hold capital commensurate to the underlying risks. The treatment of different types of asset—including sovereign debt—under the Standard Formula will be determined by the final consolidated package of Level 2 implementing measures, which is currently under negotiation. The UK has made clear to the Commission that the Standard Formula needs to be calibrated on the basis of ensuring that capital requirements for firms using the Standard Formula are sufficient to withstand a 1 in 200 year adverse event, as set out in the Solvency II Directive.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the relative effects of (a) European Commission proposals for the Solvency II methodology on the capital requirements on insurance companies and (b) the Basel III proposals on the capital requirements of banks with an equivalent level of assets; and if he will make a statement. [69588]

Mr Hoban: Basel III and Solvency II both aim to ensure sufficient regulatory capital is held by banks and insurers.

Basel III aims to improve the banking sector's ability to absorb shocks arising from financial and economic stress by increasing the quality and quantity of capital that banks hold, and introducing internationally agreed liquidity requirements and a leverage ratio to act as a backstop to its risk weighted capital requirements.

Solvency II aims to increase the protection of policyholders by ensuring that regulatory capital is calibrated to risks to which insurers are exposed. However, the effects of Solvency II on the capital requirements of insurance companies cannot be determined until the final shape of the Level 2 implementing measures is clear.

As banking and insurance involve different risks, and are exposed to different liabilities, direct comparison of capital requirements for banks and insurers holding an equivalent level of assets would not provide useful conclusions.

Finanical Services

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what means the Governor of the Bank of England will be accountable as Chairman of the (a) Financial Policy Committee, (b) Monetary Policy Committee and (c) Prudential Regulation Authority; and if he will make a statement. [69627]

Mr Hoban: As Chairman of the Financial Policy Committee, the Governor of the Bank of England will be accountable to the Bank's Court of Directors; the Chancellor, through bi-annual statutory meetings; Parliament, through Treasury Select Committee hearings; and the general public, through public announcements and publications.

As Chairman of the Monetary Policy Committee (and in future, as Chairman of the Prudential Regulation Authority), the Governor is accountable to Parliament and the general public, through the mechanisms described above.

Government Procurement Card

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government Procurement Cards were used by staff of his Department between (a) November 1999 and June 2001, (b) May 2002 and June 2007 and (c) June 2007 and January 2008; and what the (i) name of the supplier, (ii) date and (iii) value was of each transaction during this period. [68356]

Justine Greening: Information on the number of Government Procurement Cards held by staff and details of the transactions for the periods specified could only be provided at disproportionate cost due to the introduction in August 2007 of a new accounting system for monitoring GPC usage.

Taxation: Nuclear Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has considered introducing a windfall tax on nuclear operators for the purposes of mitigating the effect of his proposed carbon price floor support. [68112]

Justine Greening: The Government has been clear that the carbon price floor does not represent a subsidy to any particular sector, including the nuclear industry. The Coalition Agreement stated that there would be no public subsidy for new nuclear power stations and this continues to be the Government's position.

US Community Reinvestment Act

Mr Ward: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider bringing forward legislative proposals with provisions comparable to the US Community Reinvestment Act. [69906]

Mr Hoban: The Government has undertaken a range of measures to ensure that financial institutions lend to all sections of society, and will continue to ensure that the financial sector supports growth in the wider UK economy.

On 9 February the Chancellor announced a new commitment by the UK's biggest high street banks on lending expectations and capacity. As part of this commitment, the banks intend to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, up from £179 billion in 2010. If demand exceeds this, the banks will lend more. £76 billion of this lending will be to SMEs. This is a 15 per cent increase on 2010 lending of £66 billion.

As part of this agreement, the banks also agreed to provide £200 million to the Big Society Capital group. This is in addition to the £400 million of capitalisation from English dormant bank accounts. The group will act as a social investment wholesaler and play an important role in accelerating the growth of the social investment market in the UK.

Furthermore, on Tuesday 19 July the draft Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order 2011 was laid in Parliament for its final period of scrutiny. It will present many opportunities for credit unions to develop their services and expand their membership. For example, the changes in membership rules will allow for recruitment of members in new areas and for partnerships and companies to become members and invest in their local credit union. These new members will also be able to take out loans from their credit union to help their own businesses grow.

The Government also recognises the importance of Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) which operate to support access to finance in deprived areas and continues to support the sector through:

£30m of new funding through the Regional Growth Fund, for a new wholesale fund for the community development finance sector, subject to due diligence;

making a commitment to re-notify the Community Investment Tax Relief to the EU Commission to incentivise private investment in disadvantaged communities and also consult on how the scheme can be made more effective;

design changes to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee to enable smaller and specialist lenders including CDFIs to participate fully as EFG accredited lenders; and

contributing to the European PROGRESS Microfinance Facility, which CDFIs can bid to for support.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Armed Conflict

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the National Transitional Council in Libya concerning the location of non-portable air defence systems taken from a Gaddafi ammunition depot in the city of Ga'a; and what steps he has taken regarding this matter. [69592]

Alistair Burt: Proliferation issues in Libya have been a National Transitional Council priority since Libya's crisis began. We have raised the subject with them regularly, to ensure that weapons are secured and the situation closely monitored. The NTC has achieved much in tackling security across Libya in recent weeks, by establishing clear command and control structures and ensuring safekeeping of weapons. This remains a priority for the Government and we will continue to raise with the NTC and discuss ways we can support their efforts to counter proliferation.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67564]

Mr Lidington: Budgets in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are devolved to individual directorates in the UK and to our network of Posts overseas. As a consequence, the FCO does not hold this information centrally and to respond would incur disproportionate cost. The main use of Sky TV is Sky News which is a free to air channel.

UKTI/Business Links

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has issued directions to staff in *(a)* UK Trade & Investment and *(b)* Business Links on communications with hon. Members about potential (i) job losses and (ii) organisational changes within each organisation. [69608]

Mr Bellingham: The Department has not issued any directions to staff in regional Business Links or in UK Trade & Investment about communications with hon. Members about potential job losses or organisational changes.

Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* Saudi Arabia, *(c)* Yemen, *(d)* Bahrain and *(e)* Syria on human rights. [69797]

Alistair Burt: Human rights concerns in the middle east are a significant priority for the FCO. The Government always aim to take a robust and consistent approach to human rights concerns across the region. In his speech to the National Assembly in Kuwait on 22 February

2011, the Prime Minister set out the parameters of the UK's approach to the Arab Spring—an approach based on upholding universal values, rights and freedoms, with respect for the different cultures, histories and traditions of the countries in the region.

Egypt

We regularly raise human rights issues with the Egyptian authorities. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs raised our concerns about the dangers of extremism and sectarianism in Egypt, and the use of military courts to enforce the emergency law in proceedings against civilians when he visited Egypt on 2 May 2011. I visited Egypt on 27-28 July 2011 and raised our concerns about freedom of religion, and our embassy in Cairo is in regular contact with the Egyptian Government on human rights issues.

Saudi Arabia

We have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia and we have made our views well known, including through the Universal Periodic Review process. The UK maintains an open, frank and sustained dialogue with Saudi Arabia on human rights. Both myself, the Foreign Secretary, and our ambassador to Saudi Arabia raise the issues of the treatment of women, the application of the death penalty, the status of foreign workers and judicial reform at every appropriate opportunity.

Yemen

In public statements by the Foreign Secretary and myself, and through direct lobbying by our ambassador to Yemen and officials we have raised our concerns about human rights violations with the Yemeni Government and urged them to uphold their responsibility to protect protesters, respect the principle of freedom of expression and address their legitimate demands. We have called for those responsible for the deaths of civilian protestors to be brought to justice. We welcome the recent visit of the UN Human Rights mission to Yemen and look forward to discussing its assessment of the situation at the next Human Rights Council in September 2011.

Bahrain

We continue to urge the Government of Bahrain to meet all their human rights obligations and uphold political freedoms, equal access to justice and the rule of law. The Foreign Secretary spoke to HRH The Crown Prince of Bahrain on 30 June 2011 and to the Bahraini Foreign Minister on 3 August 2011 to reiterate our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Bahrain, and in particular the detention and sentencing of medical professionals and opposition members.

Syria

We have and will continue to raise human rights issues at every available opportunity, at both ministerial and official level, with the Syrian authorities. We also discuss Syria with key international partners, and we will continue to take a strong and leading role in working with them to increase pressure on the Syrian regime to cease these atrocities and end the abuse of human rights. We have called for Assad to make radical reforms that meet the legitimate demands of his people, for the violence to stop, for prisoners of conscience to be released and for the UN to have complete freedom to assess the humanitarian situation.

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Kashmir; and if he will make a statement. [69909]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the response the Minister of State, my noble Friend Lord Howell gave in the other place on 12 July 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 597. We recognise there are human rights concerns in both Indian and Pakistan administered Kashmir and we followed the widely reported violent unrest in Indian administered Kashmir last year. Indian Prime Minister Singh has since said that violations of human rights abuses by security forces in Kashmir would not be tolerated

It is encouraging that the violent unrest of summer 2010 has not been reported this year. We are closely following the work of the three interlocutors appointed by Prime Minister Singh to help resolve the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir and officials from our British high commission are making regular visits to the region to review the situation on the ground and the response of the authorities. We continue to call for an improvement in the human rights situation on both sides of the Line of Control and for an end to external support for violence in Kashmir. Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss India-Pakistan relations, including Kashmir with their counterparts in both countries.

Iraq: Kurds

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the situation in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq. [70427]

Alistair Burt: We continue to take a close interest in developments in the Kurdish area of Iraq. I recently met a visiting Kurdish Iraqi MP and heard first hand about developments on security and in the political process in the Kurdistan region and Iraq more widely.

Following demonstrations in Suleymaniya earlier this year, I called for the protection of rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Although there have been no further demonstrations, the Consul-General in Erbil raised our concerns with the Kurdistan Regional Government and political figures and continues to monitor the situation. We will continue to raise concerns where we see abuses.

Malawi: Politics and Government

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department made to the President of Malawi on the action taken by his Government against demonstrations held in that country on 21 and 22 July 2011. [69567]

Mr Bellingham: We responded promptly, and robustly, to this entirely unacceptable action. On 21 July 2011, I issued a statement calling on President Mutharika to rein in the security forces and elements of his party, and to allow the media to report freely on the situation in Malawi.

On 12 August 2011, ahead of the protests then planned for 17 August, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs urged President Mutharika to allow legitimate democratic debate and to open a genuine dialogue with civil society organisations. This is essential to address the serious challenges the country faces. The Foreign Secretary called for all parties to exercise restraint and for the Malawian Government to ensure that the forces under their control allow peaceful demonstrations to go ahead freely.

The British Government will continue to work with the EU, the Commonwealth and other international partners to help resolve the political situation in Malawi.

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Indian Government the number of extra-judicial detentions by that country's police forces in Kashmir under the Public Safety Act 1978. [69910]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of detentions made under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Indian administered Kashmir. According to State Government figures 4,064 people were arrested from March 2010 to January 2011 and 3,900 of those arrested have been released. Officials from our high commission visited Indian administered Kashmir in June of this year where they discussed the activities of the Indian military with state authorities. We will continue to look for opportunities to discuss these issues with the state authorities on future visits later this year.

UN World Conference against Racism

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's planned approach is regarding the UN World Conference against Racism in September 2011. [70312]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I will reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Vitol Group

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other contacts he has had with Vitol Group since May 2010. [70519]

Mr Bellingham: A full list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/

HOME DEPARTMENT

Detention Centres

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monitoring arrangements have been put in place in respect of the reception and removal centres in Turkey to be established under twinning arrangements with the UK Border Agency to ensure compliance with international agreements on human rights to which the UK is a signatory. [69684]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not aware of any monitoring arrangements currently in place or any plans for such in respect of the reception and removal centres in Turkey.

The projects' purpose has been to develop the standards for the management of the reception and removal centres as well as addressing overall needs for legislative and administrative alignment with EU law requirements and best practices.

Government Authorised Exchange Medical Training Initiative

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* advantages and *(b)* disadvantages her Department has assessed in respect of the proposal to reduce the Tier 5 visa period for the Government Authorised Exchange Medical Training Initiative from two years to one year. [69782]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to reducing net migration to the United Kingdom. This requires action across all immigration routes of entry. Against that background, the consultation document 'Employment-Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers', published on 9 June, sets out proposed changes to Tier 5. This includes a proposal to cap leave across the Tier 5 Temporary Worker route, which includes Government Authorised Exchange schemes, of which the Medical Training Initiative is one. The purpose of the consultation is to invite views on this proposal. The consultation closes on 9 September. A decision on the way forward will be assessed in the light of responses to the consultation, including those from the Royal Colleges.

Immigration

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted indefinite leave to remain having entered the UK on a Tier 5 (temporary worker) visa in each year since 2008. [70308]

Damian Green: Tier 5 came into existence in 2008 and no one who has entered the UK on a Tier 5 visa will have as yet completed the five years needed to be granted indefinite leave to remain. However, some of those who have entered on a Tier 5 visa may have switched into the marriage route and thereby been granted indefinite leave to remain but the information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Females

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the confirmed number of women granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK under the domestic violence rule in 2009; and what the equivalent provisional number is for 2010. [69480]

Damian Green: The requested information is provided in the following table:

Wives granted settlement due to domestic violence after leave to remain granted as a spouse

Year of grant	*Number of people*
2009	708
2010	766

Notes:
1. Data for 2010 are provisional.
2. Settlement is a grant of indefinite leave to enter (on arrival) or indefinite leave to remain (after entry) to a non-EEA national.
3. Excludes dependants.
4. Includes those grants of settlement which follow the outcome of reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.
5. May include a small number of cases in which a decision is recorded twice, where an individual has dual nationality.
6. 'Wives' includes same sex, civil and unmarried partners.

Information on grants of indefinite leave to remain under the domestic violence rule is published annually in the Immigration Statistics release, which is available from the Home Office Science web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, will be placed in the House Library.

National DNA Database

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals' records are held on the National DNA database. [69616]

James Brokenshire: As at 30 June 2011, there were 6,696,156 DNA profile records on the National DNA database taken by all UK police forces which relate to an estimated 5,729,959 individuals (estimate taken 4 July 2011). On 30 June 2011 there were 6,264,559 profile records taken by forces in England and Wales, which relate to an estimated 5,368,950 individuals (estimate taken 4 July 2011).

The number of individuals is estimated because a proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is a person's profile has been loaded on more then one occasion, for example because a person gave different names on separate arrests. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These figures may also be subject to further quality assurance checks.

Overseas Workers

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of abolishing the overseas domestic worker visa on the security of domestic workers; and if she will make a statement. [69794]

Damian Green: The Government's consultation on employment-related settlement, Tier 5 of the points based system and overseas domestic workers, which is open for comment until 9 September 2011, includes an option to abolish the route for overseas domestic workers to work in the private household of their employer in the UK.

As the consultation acknowledges, it is an important consideration that there can be serious problems associated with the treatment of people working for others in a domestic capacity. Documented abuses and the suspicion that the route can enable people to be brought here to be abused or exploited, provide a case for closing it. We will assess evidence and views submitted in response to the consultation that closure of the route would increase the likelihood of abuse.

The consultation is available on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues at the *(a)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* Department for International Development on the consultation document on Employment Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers. [70309]

Damian Green: The content of the consultation document was agreed collectively by interested Ministers prior to publication. The UK Border Agency continues to discuss the proposals with other Government Departments.

Police

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which foreign countries UK police forces have purchased equipment in the latest period for which figures are available. [69356]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Police Custody

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cells were available for use in England in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 1990. [69911]

Nick Herbert: The provision of police cells is an operational matter for each chief officer. As such, the information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Budget

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what tasks she expects the police no longer to carry out as a result of reductions in the policing budget. [69804]

Nick Herbert: In response to necessary reductions in central Government funding, every police force should be driving through efficiencies and rooting out wasteful spending in order to maintain or improve services while providing them at lower cost. The Government are playing their part by reducing central direction, getting rid of needless bureaucracy, cutting out wasted time and money in IT, and making sure police forces make the most of their vast purchasing power by buying together.

Police: Manpower

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the change in the number of positions in each police force in each of the years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [69899]

Nick Herbert: It is a matter for the chief constable and the police authority in each force to determine the number of police officers that are deployed within the available resource.

Social Services: Manpower

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of people employed in the adult social care sector who will be subject to regulated activity following the implementation of the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Bill; [68711]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people employed in the adult social care sector who undertake *(a)* regulated and *(b)* controlled activity. [68712]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

We are informed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department that a research exercise carried out in 2007 estimated that the total numbers in regulated activity under the then Vetting and Barring Scheme were around 9.3 million, based on a summation of estimates for a range of job categories.

The categories likely to correspond most closely to adult social care are 'Residential and day care managers', 'Houseparents and residential wardens' and 'Care assistants and home carers', although these will also include some people who provide care to children.

The estimated total for those three categories is some 713,000[1]. Other categories in the survey are also likely to include elements of adult social care[2].

Most areas of adult social care will remain in regulated activity following the changes proposed in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, so we do not expect a significant reduction in the figure.

It is estimated that a total of 0.5 million people are currently in controlled activity, but figures for individual sectors such as adult social care are not available. This category will be repealed under proposals in the Protection of Freedoms Bill.

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[1] The research on which this figure is based has a planning accuracy tolerance of +/-15%.

[2] For example, various forms of therapists, social workers, housekeepers-and related occupations.

Warwickshire Police Authority

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of police officer pensions to the Warwickshire Police Authority in each year since 2005. [69500]

Nick Herbert: The costs of police officer pensions to a police authority consist of the employer contribution, currently 24.2% of an officer's pensionable pay, and additional costs in the event of an officer's compulsory retirement on ill-health grounds. A police authority also bears the cost of injury pensions paid to former officers injured in connection with police duty, under the Police Injury Benefit Regulations. However, information concerning the costs associated with police injury benefits are not routinely collected by the Home Office and are not included here.

The relevant costs to Warwickshire Police Authority for police officer pensions (not including injury pensions) each year were:

	£ million
2006-07	8.382
2007-08	8.635
2008-09	8.601
2009-10	8.696
2010-11	[1]8.869

[1] Currently based on unaudited information.

Figures before 2006-07 relate to the previous system of police pensions financing. Information for 2005/06 and previous years about police pensions costs is included in the relevant annual reports published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This information was gathered independently of the Home Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councillors: Travel

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the use of *(a)* taxis and *(b)* leased vehicles for travel by their elected members. [69074]

Robert Neill: No such guidance has been issued.

The new Code of Recommended Practice for local authorities on data transparency introduces full transparency on (a) councillor allowances and expenses and (b) expenditure on goods and services over £500. Such openness will help prevent wasteful spending of taxpayers' money.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with business organisations about the criteria on which applications for enterprise zones are being assessed. [69914]

Greg Clark: Bids to the competition were put forward by local enterprise partnerships, who were asked to provide, in addition to other information, evidence and analysis that their proposals were likely to meet the needs of targeted business.

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on what dates. [67432]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The following cash withdrawals have been made by departmental officials from April 2006 to March 2010:

	Amount (£)
24 April 2006	235.10
1 June 2006	611.03
8 September 2006	88.93
8 September 2006	351.42
8 September 2006	351.42
8 September 2006	402.64
18 October 2006	861.21
7 November 2006	73.12
27 November 2006	527.82
1 December 2006	205.52
5 December 2006	36.76
5 December 2006	477.94
10 January 2007	348.34
28 June 2007	500.00
2 July 2007	500.00
3 July 2007	200.00
4 November 2008	190.68
9 December 2008	49.64

Currently the Department pays a 2.95% fee on cash advances (minimum charge of £2.95). For foreign exchange transactions we pay a 2.95% fee (minimum charge of £2.95 plus a further currency exchange purchase fee of 2.95%).

The new Administration has reviewed its policy on Government Procurement Card usage. As well as reducing the number of cards held, the Department has cancelled the cash withdrawal facility for all but two Government Procurement Card holders (for business continuity reasons).

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by Firebuy using the Government Procurement Card since its establishment. [68892]

Robert Neill: A table providing a breakdown of expenditure by Firebuy using Government Procurement Cards since its establishment has been placed in the Library of the House. This includes *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount and *(c)* supplier; *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction details are not held centrally. Each transaction does have an expenditure type which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased. These data cover the periods July 2006 to June 2011.

Firebuy is closing as part of Government's review of arm's length bodies and it went into voluntary liquidation on 13 July 2011.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers' money.

Housing: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local authority expenditure on social housing development in each London borough in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14. [69078]

Grant Shapps: The following table sets out the existing commitments through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Homes and Kickstart programmes in each London borough for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

£ million

	2012-13		*2013-14*		*Total 2012-14*	
	Social Rent	*Affordable Housing (including Social Rent)*	*Social Rent*	*Affordable Housing (including Social Rent)*	*Social Rent*	*Affordable Housing (including Social Rent)*
Barking and Dagenham	7.6	9.1	18.3	21.9	25.9	31.0
Barnet	9.8	10.0	10.3	12.3	20.1	22.3
Bexley	1.2	1.4	0	0	1.2	1.4
Brent	12.2	13.9	0	0	12.2	13.9
Bromley	5.8	5.9	0	0	5.8	5.9
Camden	17.3	18.7	4.7	4.7	22.0	23.4
Croydon	8.0	8.5	0	0	8.0	8.5
Ealing	13.9	16.4	0	0	13.9	16.4
Enfield	6.6	9.8	0	0	6.6	9.8
Greenwich	30.0	35.1	25.0	26.7	55.0	61.8
Hackney	21,0	25.0	3.4	3.6	24.4	28.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.7	1.0	0	0	0.7	1.0
Haringey	3.0	5.5	7.3	11.1	10.2	16.6
Harrow	7.1	10.4	2.1	2.9	9.2	13.3
Havering	17.4	19.0	0	0	17.4	19.0

£ million

	2012-13		2013-14		Total 2012-14	
	Social Rent	*Affordable Housing (including Social Rent)*	*Social Rent*	*Affordable Housing (including Social Rent)*	*Social Rent*	*Affordable Housing (including Social Rent)*
Hillingdon	5.6	6.9	0	0	5.6	6.9
Hounslow	2.4	3.1	0	0	2.4	3.1
Islington	10.4	12.0	4.3	8.2	14.7	20.2
Kensington and Chelsea	2.3	2.3	1.1	1.1	3.4	3.4
Kingston upon Thames	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.4
Lambeth	1.0	1.3	0	0	1.0	1.3
Lewisham	14.6	18.5	9.2	11.5	23.9	30.0
Merton	2.6	4.4	0.2	0.2	2.8	4.6
Newham	15.6	17.3	6.8	11.0	22.4	28.3
Redbridge	3.6	5.7	0	0	3.6	5.7
Richmond upon Thames	2.3	2.5	0	0	2.3	2.5
Southwark	9.2	9.3	10.7	14.4	19.8	23.7
Sutton	3.1	3.4	0	0	3.1	3.4
Tower Hamlets	27.0	31.2	3.2	4.3	30.2	35.5
Waltham Forest	10.8	12.0	0	0	10.8	12.0
Wandsworth	4.2	4.5	1.7	2.3	5.9	6.7
Westminster	1.9	2.2	0	0	1.9	2.2
Total for London	278.9	327.3	109.7	137.8	388.5	465.1

Notes:
1. The information is committed expenditure in London as at end of July 2011.
2. Includes expenditure relating to the National Affordable Housing Programme and Kickstart.
3. Excludes expenditure relating to FirstBuy and Kickstart Investment Support.
4. The Affordable Housing Total includes grant provided for social rent, as identified separately, and also grant provided for Low Cost Home Ownership
5. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

On 14 July I announced the outcome of the Homes and Communities Agency's assessment of the proposals of the new Affordable Homes Programme 2011-15. Through this new programme 146 providers will deliver 80,000 new homes for Affordable Rent and Affordable Home Ownership with Government funding of £1.8 billion over the next four years. From this the total available to London is £627 million.

The Homes and Communities Agency is currently negotiating contracts with providers. Once this is completed they intend to publish on their website the allocations by local authority area.

This Government are also providing funding to help first time buyers and maintain capacity in the house building industry through the FirstBuy programme. The scheme will help nearly 10,500 households to purchase a new build property by spring 2013 with a 20% equity loan co-funded by Government and house builders. An allocation of £20.8 million for FirstBuy in London was announced on 20 June 2011. This has been allocated on an area wide basis, as the breakdown of funding by London borough will not be known until the completion of sales.

In addition, we have set aside almost £1 billion over this spending review period for the New Homes Bonus Scheme. This scheme will match fund the additional council tax raised, using the national average in each band, for new homes and long-term empty properties brought back into use. From 2012-13 an additional £350 will be payable for each affordable home. This unringfenced funding will ensure that the benefits of housing growth are visible to the communities affected. Local authorities will need to lead the debate with their communities to determine local spending priorities.

This Department does not hold details of local authority expenditure used to support social housing development.

The Localism Bill, currently going through Parliament, will devolve further responsibilities to the Mayor.

Land: Waste

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether land that is designated with a B2 planning status can be used for a waste incinerator development without requiring a change in the outline planning permission. [69599]

Robert Neill: A decision on whether a development is an appropriate use for land designated in a development plan for B2 use (General Industry), or whether it is acceptable in terms of any outline planning permission already granted, is one for the local planning authority to take having regard to the circumstances of the particular case concerned.

We are currently undertaking a wider review of how change of use is handled in the planning system. This will include consideration of the status of waste management facilities within the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987.

Non-domestic Rates

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what conclusions he has reached as a result of his consultation with local businesses on his proposed changes to local business rates. [68057]

Robert Neill: The Government published proposals for business rate retention in "Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rate Retention" on 18 July 2011. Responses are requested by 24 October.

Planning: Radio

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has any plans to require local authorities to announce public and planning notices on local or regional radio. [69711]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not have any plans to require local authorities to announce their public and planning notices on local or regional radio.

Local authorities are required by law to publicise planning notices in accordance with Article 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010. This normally involves notifying neighbours by letter and/or displaying a site notice, as well as publishing information about each application on their website. Additionally, in certain circumstances, a notice must be published in a local newspaper.

Regional Planning and Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1128W, on regional planning and development, and with reference to paragraph 10 of the Government Response to the Communities and Local Government Committee's Report on Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies: a planning vacuum, by what process the voluntary environmental assessment on the revocation of regional strategies paragraph 10 will be undertaken; and what the arrangements and timetable will be for public engagement consistent with the obligations under the Aarhus Convention. [69583]

Robert Neill: As announced in my written ministerial statement on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 52WS, a voluntary assessment of the likely significant environmental effect of revoking the regional strategies is being undertaken in line with the process laid down in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The arrangements and timetable will therefore also be in line with the process laid down in those regulations, which is also in line with the Aarhus Convention. An environmental report is being compiled for each regional strategy and public consultation will begin shortly.

South East Plan

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a determination under regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 on the likely environmental effects of revoking the South East Plan; and if he will make a statement. [69582]

Robert Neill: As announced in my written ministerial statement on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 52WS, the Government are undertaking a voluntary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of revoking all eight Regional Strategies. A determination under Regulation 9 has not been made. I will announce the start of public consultation on the assessments shortly.

Tenants: Evictions

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants in each local authority area have received warnings from their local authority that they could be evicted from their homes if they, or a family member, are convicted of criminal conduct during the public disorders of August 2011. [70578]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect data on the number of council tenants who have been issued with warnings by their local authority landlords that they may face eviction as a result of conduct relating to the riots.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Barbary Macaque

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will provide expert advice to the Government of *(a)* Morocco and *(b)* Algeria on steps to protect and conserve the Barbary macaque. [70064]

Richard Benyon: We have not been approached to provide expert advice to the Governments of Morocco or Algeria to help protect and conserve the Barbary macaque. We do, however, provide considerable support to several multilateral environmental agreements, such as the convention on biological diversity and the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora in support of biodiversity conservation globally.

Biodiversity

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether international co-ordination of the conservation of high seas biodiversity will be included in her Department's priorities for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. [69390]

Richard Benyon: The UK priorities for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (Rio+20) are currently being developed across Government. Biodiversity is likely to feature in those priorities, but the form this will take has yet to be agreed.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding she has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by her Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68544]

Richard Benyon: We provide the following telephone helplines:

Core DEFRA

General DEFRA Helpline

The general DEFRA Helpline provides a single point of contact for all DEFRA general inquiries from the public. Allocated funding is £252,000.

DEFRA Farming Online Helpline

DEFRA Farming Online allocates an element of its 'business as usual' budget to maintain a dedicated telephone helpline (delivered by the RPA) which provides technical assistance for farmers using DEFRA's online services through the Business Link Farming Theme and offers user technical support for farmers carrying out online transactions in respect of the systems for Cattle Tracing, Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claims and Farm Assessments and Surveys. Allocated funding is £90,000.

Wild Bird Surveillance and Animal Diseases Helpline

The helpline's twin purposes are: to enable members of the public to report mass (five or more carcases) wild bird fatalities for Avian Influenza surveillance purposes; and to provide assistance for animal keepers during outbreaks of non-native (exotic) diseases of animals. Allocated funding is £25,000.

PLANET (Planning Land Applications of Nutrients for Efficiency and the environment) Helpline

The helpline is a support mechanism for the PLANET computer-based decision support tool which helps farmers and land managers optimise their use of fertilisers and other nutrients so helping with growing of crops and avoiding over-use which can harm the environment. The helpline provides a mix of IT help for farmers while they familiarise themselves with the software and provides nutritional advice from trained fertiliser advisers. Allocated funding is £35,000.

Executive Agencies

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency

PETS Helpline

This provides advice and guidance on pet passports and travelling with pets. Allocated funding is £120,000.

TSE Helpline

This helpline gives general and technical advice to the disposal industry and farmers relating to BSE and scrapie testing requirements. Allocated funding is £50,000.

Rural Payments Agency

(Note technical assistance on using the respective systems covered by the two helplines following is provided by the DEFRA Farming Online Helpline listed above).

The British Cattle Movement Service Helpline

This helpline supports cattle keepers of Great Britain and includes a separate Welsh language helpline. It provides information and guidance on the rules, regulations and requirements in respect of cattle passports and the reporting of birth, death and movement of cattle. Allocated funding is £777,000.

The Rural Payments Agency Helpline

This helpline provides information and guidance on the rules, regulations and requirements in respect of the Rural Land Register, Customer Registration and the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). Allocated funding is £2,726,000.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency Floodline

This comprises a Recorded Message service and Live Agent service providing information on flood warnings and advice to customers on what to do before, during and after flooding in England Wales and Scotland. The Scottish portion is funded by Scottish Government via Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). Allocated funding is £950,000 (which excludes £50,000 funding from SEPA).

The Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre (NCCC)

This has three helplines: General inquiries, Hazardous Waste and Agricultural Waste. The NCCC is not purely an inbound helpline service. It provides help and guidance, multiple registration services, an outbound regulation awareness service and a host of non-phone activities that include e-mail correspondence and paper and electronic application processing. Allocated funding within the NCCC for the three helpline services is £1,400,000.

Natural England

Natural England Inquiry Service

This is the first point of contact for general inquiries covering Natural England and its work. Allocated funding is £30,000.

Cross Compliance Helpline

This fulfils an EU legal requirement to provide advice to farmers and landowners. It is available to all Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claimants and is delivered on behalf of DEFRA. Allocated funding is £60,000.

Open Access Helpline

Open Access restrictions, inquiries and advice for landowners, farmers and the public as required by legislation and including fire severity risk advice. Allocated funding is £60,000.

Wildlife Management and Licensing Helpline

This provides advice on wildlife and the issuing of licences as required by legislation. It also provides advice on wild birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians that are legally protected. Allocated funding is £60,000.

Environmental Impact assessment

Advice is provided for landowners and farmers on Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations as required by legislation. Allocated funding is £20,000.

Wildlife Poisoning Incidents

This is for people seeking advice and guidance on as well as reporting of suspected wildlife poisoning incidents. Allocated funding is £20,000.

Environment Protection

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps she has taken at an international level in respect of steps to *(a)* reduce levels of overfishing, *(b)* mitigate the impact of greenhouse gases in acidifying the oceans, *(c)* reduce levels of man-made pollution and *(d)* reduce levels of nutrient run-off. [69632]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The UK is leading the calls to reform the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) to overcome its serious structural failings, which have led to the over-exploitation of fish stocks including the wasteful practice of discarding fish. The UK is building support for genuine and radical change that includes providing the incentives and regulatory framework to enable us to:

catch less fish but land more of it, for example by replacing landing-based quota with catch quotas;

adopt a regionalised CFP that eliminates over-detailed central regulation; and

apply the same principles of sustainable use of marine resources within and outside EU waters.

The UK is also calling on Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, which manage fish stocks in international and coastal waters, to set quotas that fully reflect the best available scientific advice in order to ensure the future sustainability of all species.

(b) The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has the lead responsibility for mitigation including international negotiations under the UN framework convention on climate change. However, in order to improve our understanding of the potential impacts of ocean acidification DEFRA, DECC and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) are jointly funding a £12 million research programme. This programme has strong links into the European Project on Ocean Acidification (EPOCA) which has enabled cross-national field observations and joint modelling projections to be undertaken which could not have been undertaken by any one country. As a result of this collaborative approach, EU scientists have become the international leaders in ocean acidification research. The next stage is to engage in a major joint EU-US experiment, while maintaining a strong European leadership.

Scientists all around the world are working to understand what these impacts might be. The five year UK Ocean Acidification Research Programme (UKOA) is the UK's response to these growing concerns over ocean acidification and is jointly funded by DEFRA, DECC and NERC. This programme is also inputting to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework convention on climate change.

(c) The UK Government are fully involved in a wide range of international initiatives, beyond those undertaken within the European Union, to address man-made pollution. These include:

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which promotes the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals around the world are produced and used in ways that minimise significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

The Rotterdam convention, which promotes shared responsibility and co-operative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment and to contribute to the environmentally sound use of those chemicals.

The Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have adverse effects to human health or to the environment.

The UK, as a party to the Stockholm convention, agreed at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 25-9 April 2011 to add endosulfan, a widely used pesticide, to the list of persistent organic pollutants to be eliminated worldwide. This decision was among more than 30 measures taken by parties to the convention to boost global action against POPs.

The UK plays an active role in the convention on long range transboundary air pollution (CLRTAP) in order to tackle emissions to air of a range of harmful pollutants from the wider Europe and North America area. In 2009 the protocol on persistent organic pollutants was revised to include controls on additional organic pollutants. Amendments to the Gothenburg protocol are expected to be agreed within the next seven months leading to reductions in emissions of five pollutants (nitrogen oxides; sulphur dioxide; volatile organic compounds; ammonia and particulate matter) that lead to acidification, eutrophication, ground level ozone and particulate matter. Revisions to the heavy metals protocol are expected to be agreed within approximately the next year, bringing further controls on the metals cadmium, lead and mercury.

(d) The UK is participating with other North sea countries in an initiative organised through the OSPAR convention for the protection of the north-east Atlantic to model the contribution of the nutrient load of different rivers to eutrophication effects (chlorophyll and oxygen) in coastal and offshore areas of the North sea to estimate the degree of change needed in key parameters to bring the current eutrophication problem areas in the eastern North sea to non-problem area status.

Action to amend the Gothenburg protocol under the CLTRAP is expected to lead to further international controls on emissions of nitrogen dioxide and ammonia, and to updated guidance on fertiliser and manure management resulting in more efficient nitrogen use and reduced levels of nutrient run off.

The UK signed up to the commitments under the convention on biological diversity new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20 at the Nagoya Biodiversity Conference in October 2010. The Strategic Plan includes target 8 that by 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been bought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Food: Waste

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has set a date by which no food waste will go to landfill. [69380]

Richard Benyon: The Government's Review of Waste Policy in England, published in June, sets out our vision of a zero waste economy, where resources are fully valued and only disposed of as a last resort.

Keeping food waste out of landfill is central to meeting this objective. It will only be achieved by working with householders, communities and businesses to make sure that waste collection systems are locally appropriate, and that treatment techniques and technologies are as innovative and sustainable as possible.

Although we have not set a date by which no food should go to landfill, we believe that the measures set out in the Waste Review, together with the Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan, put us on the right path to achieving our zero waste ambitions.

Natural Capital Committee

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the terms of reference will be for the Natural Capital Committee. [69310]

Richard Benyon: The Natural Capital Committee is one of the key commitments of the Natural Environment White Paper, 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature', and has been set up to advise the Government on the state of English natural capital. Its terms of reference are currently being agreed, and will be based on the commitment in the White Paper.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made in developing a scoping study for a natural capital asset check. [69311]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will commission a scoping study for a natural capital asset check this autumn. We held a workshop in May to inform thinking about this study, and commissioned think piece papers which are currently being reviewed. The study will be developed in conjunction with the wider research work which builds on the UK National Ecosystem Assessment.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members will be of the Natural Capital Committee. [69312]

Richard Benyon: The members of the Natural Capital Committee have not yet been recruited. The Committee will be composed of a small number of leading experts in this area. They will be recruited through an open competition process, consistent with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the establishment of the Natural Capital Committee. [69448]

Richard Benyon: The recruitment of the chair and members of the Natural Capital Committee will start this autumn. The Committee will meet as soon as possible after they have been recruited.

Natural Environment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made in developing new supplementary guidance to the HM Treasury Green Book on valuing the natural environment in appraisals. [69313]

Richard Benyon: The Natural Environment White Paper, "The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature", made a commitment to publish new supplementary guidance to the Green Book, on accounting for environmental impacts in policy appraisal. DEFRA has made good progress, with HM Treasury engagement, on guidance emphasising the importance of accounting for the benefits which whole ecosystems provide, as well as more detailed guidance on the assessment of specific types of environmental impacts, such as air quality. DEFRA will be consulting other Government Departments during September on the matter.

Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the establishment of the loan fund to stimulate investment in additional anaerobic digestion infrastructure. [69228]

Richard Benyon: The £10 million Anaerobic Digestion Loan Fund (ADLF), as set out in the Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan, is now up and running.

The ADLF is administered by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). It is WRAP's intention to open the fund for applications in the following periods: July to October 2011, January to April 2012, June to September 2012 and December to March 2012-13.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bioenergy Review

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish the UK Bioenergy Strategy; and what account he plans to take of the Committee on Climate Change's Bioenergy Review in formulating the strategy. [70375]

Charles Hendry: DECC is working closely with other Government Departments and Government advisory bodies, including the Committee on Climate Change, to develop a cross-Government bio-energy strategy. We expect to publish this at the turn of the year, as the response to the Committee on Climate Change's Bio-energy review.

Biofuels

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contribution renewable heat from biomass combined heat and power generation will make to the target for energy consumption from renewable sources set under the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC). [69494]

Gregory Barker: Analysis undertaken for the renewable heat incentive (RHI) impact assessment (published March 2011) suggests a contribution of around 5 TWh of renewable heat from biomass combined heat and power (CHP) by 2020 based on a 2.5p/kWh tariff (equating to around 9% of 58 TWh). However, actual uptake is uncertain. Our estimates will be subject to further analysis and updated in the light of the proposals in the forthcoming consultation on the banding review of the renewables obligation.

British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether the cost of the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme levelling option is cost neutral; and what profit or loss the option made in the latest period for which figures are available; [70761]

(2) what formulation *(a)* is and *(b)* has previously been used to calculate the addition and deduction of payments to the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme levelling option. [70762]

Charles Hendry: This is a matter for the Trustees of the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme who are contactable at the following address;

Coal Pension Trustee Services Ltd
Ventana House
Concourse Way
Sheffield S1 2BJ
E-mail: bcsss.enquiries@coal-pension.org.uk

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish his Department's submission to the consultation by HM Treasury on the introduction of a carbon price floor. [69882]

Gregory Barker: The Department made no formal submission to the consultation by HM Treasury (HMT) on the introduction of a carbon price floor. A carbon price floor is the first facet of the Government's four point plan to transform the UK's power announced in the Electricity Market Reform (EMR) White Paper. Consequently, though the introduction of the carbon price floor was led by HMT/HMRC as it is a tax matter, DECC has been very closely involved in the analysis and policy development. All individual responses to HMT's consultation (where confidentiality was not requested) are available on HMT's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_carbon_price_support.htm

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 479W, on departmental work experience, what the beginning and end dates were of each unpaid internship; for how many weeks each such intern worked in the Department; what the average number of hours worked by each such intern per week was; whether each such intern worked fixed hours; what the recruitment process was for each such vacancy; and where the positions were advertised. [69475]

Gregory Barker: Pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 479W, on departmental work experience there were eight unpaid internships. During the course of our current investigations to answer this question further information has come to light and one of these interns has been identified as an existing civil servant on loan to the Department of Energy and Climate Change and therefore not an internship. We apologise for this error.

Detailed information on internships and work experience placements was not centrally approved or recorded prior to April 2011 and for this reason there is a gap in the information relating to one of the seven interns. Since April 2011 DECC has ensured that all work experience placements and internships are awarded through fair and open competition, in line with Baroness Warsi's commitment to end informal internships in Whitehall.

Interns	*Start date*	*End date*	*Number of weeks worked*	*Average number of hours worked*	*Fixed hours*	*Recruitment process*	*Where advertised*
1	27 June 2010	27 August 2010	9	<36	No	Direct approach by student	Not advertised
2	1 July 2010	30 August 2010	9	36	No	Limited competition	Through university
3	1 July 2010	25 August 2011	8	36	No	Direct approach by student	Not advertised
4	16 August 10	28 August 2010	2	—	No	Through internal contact	Not advertised
5	11 January 2010	5 February 2010	10	36	No	Limited competition	Not advertised
6	13 September 2010	24 September 2010	1	36	No	Through internal contact	Not advertised
7	14 June 2010	2 July 2010	2	36	No	Information not available	Information not available

Electric Cables

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance he gives the National Grid on the use of *(a)* underground cable and *(b)* pylons and overhead power lines when establishing new grids. [70085]

Charles Hendry: Government policy on how the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) should consider applications for nationally significant energy infrastructure projects is set out in the Energy National Policy Statements designated on 19 July following their approval by Parliament. The NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) specifically covers the impacts of overhead lines as well as the undergrounding of lines that National Grid will need to consider when preparing an application for development consent.

Energy: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to offering rewards to communities to encourage the take-up of energy efficiency measures. [69243]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal supported by the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) will deliver a range of energy saving measures at little or no effective cost to the recipients. Local community partnerships may be a very efficient way of driving take-up.

We are exploring with local authorities the potential for them to make use of the new freedoms they will gain under the Localism Bill to develop incentives.

Additionally, the Behaviour Change and Energy Use report released by the Government in July announced a trial to test the impact of offering community rewards on the impact of take-up of energy efficiency measures.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans for a national roll-out of the RE:NEW energy efficiency programme. [70060]

Gregory Barker: From late 2012 the Green Deal will be available to British households and businesses. While there are no Government plans for a national roll-out, the type of partnership arrangements that underpin London's RE:NEW programme is certainly an approach we envisage will be relevant under the Green Deal. Furthermore, under the Home Energy Conservation Act we will encourage local authorities to work together and with the private sector to deliver energy efficiency improvements.

Energy: Prices

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and carbon floor price on domestic energy bills up to 2020; and if he will make a statement. [70304]

Gregory Barker: DECC's assessment of the overall impact of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills was published alongside the Annual Energy Statement in July 2010:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/price_bill_imp/price_bill_imp.aspx

This assessment set out the estimated impact of the EU Emissions Trading System on an average domestic electricity bill as £30 (6%) in 2020 (in 2009 prices). This is compared to a bill in the absence of energy and climate change policies.

Subsequent to this publication, the impact assessment for the carbon price floor:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_carbon_price_support_ia.pdf

estimated that it would add a further £11 (2%) to the average domestic electricity bill in 2020 (in 2009 prices). This is the marginal impact of the carbon price floor relative to a baseline that includes those policies already in place (or planned to a sufficient degree) at the time of publication.

Both these policies will help deliver a cleaner and more secure electricity supply and their impact on household energy bills will be offset by policies that help to improve energy efficiency.

An updated assessment of the impact of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills will be published alongside the Annual Energy Statement in the autumn reflecting policy developments over the last year.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects in the UK have received funding from the EU New Entrant Reserve Fund 300 (NER300) since the scheme's inception. [69233]

Gregory Barker: No projects have received funding from the NER300.

All applications for funding from the first tranche of the NER300 are currently undergoing a due diligence assessment, by the European Investment Bank. After this the European Commission will carry out their own checks before making final award decisions (expected in the second half of 2012).

Fuel Oil: Prices

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that vulnerable people are protected from high domestic heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas costs; and if he will make a statement. [70798]

Charles Hendry: The Government are sympathetic to the plight of many off-grid energy consumers who were hit hard by high prices and supply issues last winter. We are keen that the reasons for this are thoroughly investigated which is why I wrote to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in January to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy. The OFT has launched its market study into the off-grid energy market on 15 March and will publish its findings in October 2011. The market study will provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

Vulnerable off-grid consumers, including those whose primary heating source is heating oil or liquefied petroleum gas, could be eligible for grants under the Warm Front scheme for specified heating and insulation measures up to £3,500 in value or £6,000 where the work includes installation of an oil fired central heating system or an alternative low carbon technology for properties off the main gas grid. Additionally the Warm Home Discount scheme introduced in April this year will require energy companies by law to give a discount on electricity bills to more of their most low income and vulnerable customers. Government are working to ensure 600,000 of the poorest pensioners receive a £120 discount on their electricity bill this year, ensuring eligible households off the gas grid will benefit. Other groups such as low income families and those with long-term illnesses and disabilities may also receive this discount; they may also receive assistance under transitional arrangements from the previous voluntary agreement. In total, the scheme will benefit around 2 million households this year, with a value of up to £250 million.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met representatives of charitable organisations to discuss fuel poverty. [70699]

Gregory Barker: Policy officials in the fuel poverty team and I regularly meet with key stakeholders with an interest in fuel poverty. I recently met with Macmillan Cancer Support, and have had wider engagement with other groups through my attendance at the Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency All Party Group, including National Energy Action and Citizens Advice.

Nuclear Power: Research

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on nuclear research and development by *(a)* the Office for Nuclear Development and *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority since May 2010. [70198]

Charles Hendry: The Office for Nuclear Development has not funded any nuclear research and development (R&D) since May 2010.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) funds R&D to advance the UK's decommissioning and clean-up programme, and to progress the implementation of geological disposal for higher activity radioactive wastes. The figures available cover the period from May 2010 to July 2011:

Direct spend by NDA HQ on decommissioning and clean-up R&D: £5.4 million.

Spend by NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate on geological disposal R&D: £6.0 million.

Total NDA spend £11.4 million.

Oil: Seas and Oceans

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the recent oil spills in the North Sea; and if he will make a statement. [70292]

Charles Hendry: Over the last ten years crude oil releases on the UKCS have been typically relatively small—ranging from 0.0001 tonnes to 36 tonnes. However, the Gannet release, which occurred between 10 and 19 August, was the largest oil release on the UKCS in the last decade, totalling approximately 218 tonnes.

There has been no evidence of any significant environmental impact to date resulting from any of these releases, including the recent Gannet release.

Since 1 June 2011, 15 crude oil releases have been reported with a total volume of approximately 223 tonnes, which includes the Gannet release at approximately 218 tonnes and 14 other releases making up the balance of 5 tonnes.

For details of my assessment of the Gannet oil release, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today to my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) to question 70147.

Renewable Energy

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the timetable is for the *(a)* publication, *(b)* consultation and *(c)* laying before Parliament of the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2012; and whether he has assessed the potential effects of the Order on delivering investor certainty. [70376]

Charles Hendry: We intend to launch a public consultation shortly on proposals for banded support under the renewables obligation for the period 2013-17. The consultation package will include a draft of the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2012. The final draft order will be laid before Parliament as soon as possible after the Government issues its formal response to the consultation. Subject to State Aid's approval, the new bands will come into effect on 1 April 2013 as planned (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

Investor confidence is essential to helping the UK achieve its ambitious aims for renewables energy deployment. That is why I announced last December the speeding up of the renewables obligation banding review. We will complete the review, and introduce the order enshrining support levels in law, several months ahead of the original banding review timetable announced by the previous Government. This will give investors earlier certainty on the support levels available for large-scale renewable electricity deployment from April 2013.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what financial support his Department allocated to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and what discussions his Department has had with the Department for International Development on the priorities for REEEP funding. [70195]

Gregory Barker: REEEP received a £2.5 million grant from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for 2010-11, and will receive £1 million for 2011-12. DECC officials consulted officials from the Department for International Development on identifying high quality projects in priority countries for REEEP's 2010-11 project call, and will continue to liaise with them on future priorities and funding for REEEP.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he plans to put in place transitional arrangements for low-carbon projects intending to participate in the feed-in tariff with Contracts for Difference scheme that require a final investment decision before the scheme is implemented; [70135]

(2) whether he plans to put in place transitional arrangements for new nuclear projects that require final investment decisions ahead of implementation of the feed-in tariff with Contracts for Difference; [70148]

Gregory Barker: In order to ensure the continuity of all low-carbon development, the Government are working with relevant parties to enable early investment decisions to progress to timetable wherever possible, including those required ahead of implementation of the feed-in tariff contract for difference. Full details of the EMR transition, including the transition from the renewables obligation (RO) to the Contracts for Difference scheme, can be found in chapter 8 and annex D of the White Paper, "Securing Our Electric Future".

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of the annual renewable heat incentive budget for dedicated biomass combined heat and power generation projects *(a)* under 200 kilowatt thermal, *(b)* between 200 and 1,000 kilowatt thermal and *(c)* over 1,000 kilowatt thermal in 2014-15. [69492]

Gregory Barker: Analysis undertaken for the renewable heat incentive (RHI) impact assessment (published March 2011) suggests around £7 million of spending on biomass combined heat and power (CHP) in 2014 based on a 2.5p/kWh tariff. Our modelling assumes that biomass CHP projects will only come forward above 1,000 kilowatt thermal and are incentivised by the renewables obligation until 2013 and by the RHI between 2014-20. However, actual uptake is uncertain so some smaller projects may nevertheless come forward under the RHI. Our estimates will be subject to further analysis and updated in the light of the proposals in the forthcoming consultation on the banding review of the renewables obligation.

Renewable Energy: Research

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what changes his Department has made in the funding of research and development for renewable energy programmes in financial year 2011-12; whether he has any plans to change the priorities for funding for renewable energy programmes for financial year 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [70196]

Gregory Barker: In order to target support for low carbon technologies, a series of Technology Innovation Needs Assessments (TINAs) have been undertaken to provide a robust evidence base on the innovation needs of the technology families most likely to be important in achieving our energy and climate targets.

Drawing on TINAs and other evidence, the Department is reviewing the needs of a range of innovative technologies and is developing four-year programme plans, in conjunction with others. This summer, the Department announced that it would set aside up to £30 million of its innovation budget over the next four years to support innovation in offshore wind, and up to £20 million to support marine energy. Subject to satisfactory value for money assessments, these schemes will be launched this autumn. Announcements on further allocations are expected to follow later this year.

Shell: North Sea

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the oil leak from Shell's Gannet Alpha platform; and if he will make a statement. [70147]

Charles Hendry: It is estimated that approximately 218 tonnes (1,300 barrels) of oil were released as a result of the incident at the Gannet F subsea development, all of which dispersed naturally.

There has been no evidence of any significant environmental impact to date resulting from this release:

Aerial surveillance was undertaken by Marine Scotland, which confirmed that there were very few birds in the vicinity of the oil release. This was supported by additional vessel-based seabird observations.

Samples of fish, sea water and sediment were also collected by Marine Scotland. A Taste Panel confirmed that the fish samples had not been tainted by the release. Chemical analyses are being undertaken to confirm there has been no significant contamination of fish, seawater or sediment samples.

Regular visual reports received from the area confirmed that no wildlife casualties had been observed.

The leak was stopped on 19 August and my officials are now involved in carrying out a thorough joint investigation with the HSE not only to determine the cause of the incident but to learn the lessons from it. The investigation, which is likely to take a number of months, will focus on all aspects of the incident including any underlying factors which may have contributed. A full report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal in Aberdeen to consider whether further action is appropriate.

United Nations Climate Change Conference

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials from his Department he expects to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. [70775]

Gregory Barker: The UK delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban is yet to be finalised. The final delegation size will seek to strike the right balance between ensuring the UK's effectiveness in the negotiations while minimising the cost and carbon footprint, but will be significantly smaller than the UK delegation to the Conference of Parties in 2009.

DEFENCE

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67559]

Mr Robathan: In the 14 months for which data are available since May 2010, payments for the whole range of services in the UK provided by British Sky Broadcasting Ltd have totalled some £285,000. The majority of this expenditure was incurred to provide our ships with Sky TV while in UK waters or docked in certain UK ports as part of the welfare entitlement of our sailors, who would not otherwise be able to arrange such services.

Action has been taken to reduce payments for Sky TV, and they are expected to reduce by some £120,000 per year.

Armed Forces: Education Allowance

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on private or independent education of children of serving military or defence personnel in each of the last five years. [67053]

Mr Robathan: Payments may be paid to Service personnel, and Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian employees appointed overseas, to allow their children to achieve a stable education. These are made via Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) for Service personnel, and School Allowance (SA) for civilians. Limits apply in respect of the amount that can be claimed and all claims are subject to a parental minimum contribution of 10%. Changes to the regulations governing CEA came into effect on 1 April 2011. Amounts payable were not reduced, but changes to the eligibility rules and the governance of claims will reduce the Department's spend. These changes are expected to have an impact in Financial Year 2011-20.

Details of CEA costs before FY 2007-08 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Elements of CEA are subject to a PAYE Settlement Agreement with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for tax purposes. Therefore, in addition to the money paid to individuals, the MOD also makes payments to HMRC for tax and National Insurance (NI) for the grossing up of the allowance.

CEA payments to armed forces personnel

	Financial Year (£ million)			
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
CEA	101.8	108.1	111.3	114.9
Tax and NI	60.3	64.7	65.6	[1]n/a
Total	162.2	172.8	176.9	n/a

[1] Tax and NI figures are not yet available for Financial Year 2010-11.

SA payments to MOD civilian staff

Financial Year	*£ million*
2006-07	1.24
2007-08	1.08
2008-09	0.97
2009-10	0.98
2010-11	0.92

As MOD civilian employees pay for school tuition fees directly in the first instance and these fees are later reimbursed, there is no tax and NI liability.

Both totals include payments to independent sector schools, local authority boarding schools and further education colleges. Spend by educational institution type could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Government grant to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; and if he will make a statement. [66912]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has no plans to change the long standing arrangement whereby the United Kingdom funds 78% of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission costs, which is proportionate to the number of war casualties the United Kingdom sustained during what are considered the war years. This year's United Kingdom funding is in excess of £44 million.

We remain committed to ensuring that those who died during the two World Wars, and the men and women who have died while serving in HM armed forces in subsequent years, continue to be commemorated with the same honour and dignity as hitherto and which they so richly deserve.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Government's employment law review since May 2011. [67218]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not have responsibility for employment-related legislation. However, in common with partners across Government, we have been consulted throughout on the proposals for the Employment Law review.

Defence Equipment and Support: Location

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to consult staff affected by the proposal to relocate Defence Equipment and Support posts from Glasgow to Bristol; [69387]

(2) whether his Department plans to undertake consultation in accordance with the policy of 1 October 2007 on employee relations in relation to the proposed relocation of Defence Equipment and Support staff from Glasgow to Bristol; [69617]

(3) whether his Department has any plans to meet representatives of the Public and Commercial Services Union to discuss proposals to relocate Defence and Equipment and Support posts from Glasgow to Bristol; [69618]

(4) what assessment he has made of the value for money of relocating Defence Equipment and Support posts from Glasgow to Bristol. [69619]

Mr Robathan: A review is being undertaken to consider the possible transfer of some Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) posts that are currently based in Kentigern House, Glasgow, to the DE&S headquarters in Abbey Wood, Bristol.

This work is at a very early stage, and no decisions have yet been made. Staff in Kentigern House and the trades unions have been advised that the review has been initiated; the work is due to be completed in the autumn.

Staff will continue to be involved in and informed of the work as it progresses. This will include formal trades union consultation as appropriate.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether the sources of low-carbon energy generation on its estate were manufactured in the UK. [67935]

Mr Robathan: Information on the country of manufacture of low-carbon energy technology is not held.

Official Cars

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria are used to determine eligibility for the use of official cars in his Department. [66911]

Mr Robathan: Eligibility for a staff car is currently dependent upon the nature of the duties of an appointment, and it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s top level budget holders to identify and justify which appointments have such eligibility. For officers and civil servants holding equivalent military rank, eligibility is generally linked to command status, but certain officers holding key staff appointments may also be eligible. This policy applies across the MOD and its agencies, including the trading funds, and their chief executives.

We are, however, reviewing departmental policy on the provision of staff cars, taking account of the need to demonstrate value for money, provide maximum flexibility and meet our sustainable development commitments.

The Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, has already led to changes in the circumstances in which Ministers would be entitled to a car and driver. In the MOD, these cost-saving changes have meant that the junior Defence Ministers have given up their cars with a dedicated driver and now share a central MOD car pool with senior military officers and officials working in Main Building.

Staff cars are an extension of the office and give Ministers and our most senior military and civilian staff a more private space to work in than public transport, so they can make best use of the time they spend travelling, with appropriate security.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel by ministerial car for each Minister in his Department in the last 12 months. [66923]

Dr Fox: A breakdown by individual Minister of the cost of using an official car is not available. However, the Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, reduced ministerial entitlement to a car and driver, and thus costs, when compared to the last Government.

To reduce costs, the junior Defence Ministers have given up their cars with a dedicated driver and now share pool cars with senior military officers and officials working in Main Building. I am driven and protected by the Metropolitan Police.

The Ministry of Defence incurred £171,041 on the use of official cars by all Defence Ministers in financial year 2010-11.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to date of the military operation by UK forces in Libya for the purposes of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [69796]

Dr Fox: As I announced on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS, the current estimate of the net additional costs of military operations for six months, from mid-March, in support of Operation Ellamy—the United Kingdom's contribution to coalition operations in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973—is in the region of £120 million. This excludes costs associated with capital munitions expended.

Based upon current consumption rates we estimate the cost of replenishing munitions may be up to £140 million. The Treasury has agreed to meet these costs from the Reserve.

Radar

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements he is making for the continuation of radar coverage following the closure of RAF Leuchars. [69593]

Nick Harvey: There is a Watchman Air Traffic Control (ATC) radar at RAF Leuchars. The drawdown of Leuchars, as an operational RAF airbase, does not necessitate the removal of the Watchman radar from that site. Detailed decisions on the requirement to continue ATC radar services at RAF Leuchars, in light of the planned drawdown of the Typhoon force at the station, have yet to be taken.

Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken on employment opportunities for people leaving his Department under its redundancy programme. [66914]

Mr Robathan: For armed forces personnel prior to discharge, individual employment needs are identified from a mandatory interview with a trained service resettlement adviser, who is able to signpost to a number of organisations and services, ranging from the 'Flexible New Deal' programme available at Jobcentre Plus through to workshops and training delivered through the Career Transition Partnership. For those who have left, lifetime job finding support is available through the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association.

In addition, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions. Armed forces champions have been appointed who aim to ensure Jobcentre Plus staff are providing the correct advice and support, not only to families of our armed forces but also to former service personnel.

For those civil servants who are leaving on redundancy or early release, the MOD offers an outplacement support programme. Among other services, this provides support and guidance on finding and securing alternative employment.

Furthermore, this support will be enhanced by giving those leaving access to the talent retention system, the new national web-based job vacancy system which is being set up under the initiative announced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff at the *(a)* Met Office and *(b)* Hydrographic Office earned more than £100,000 on the latest date for which figures are available. [66919]

Mr Robathan: Details of the remuneration of the most senior employees of both Trading Funds are disclosed in their Annual Reports and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare: Doctors

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with the General Medical Council on the conduct of doctors employed by Atos Healthcare. [70143]

Chris Grayling: DWP has had no discussions with the General Medical Council on the conduct of doctors employed by Atos Healthcare as this is the responsibility of the doctor's employer. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Department to have direct discussions with the GMC regarding individuals.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Atos Healthcare on the investigation by the General Medical Council of staff it employs. [70295]

Chris Grayling: The DWP Chief Medical Adviser routinely discusses with Atos the suitability of continued employment of doctors who are under investigation by the General Medical Council when either party has concerns about this. The DWP contract requires Atos to discuss with the Chief Medical Adviser those doctors who have conditions applied by the General Medical Council pending investigation because of concerns about professional misconduct.

Disability Living Allowance

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with disabled people on reform of the disability living allowance. [68831]

Maria Miller: Throughout the development of the new personal independence payment, which will replace disability living allowance, we have had extensive discussions and consultation with disabled people, their families and organisations representing them.

We have just completed our informal consultation on the draft assessment criteria. Ministers and departmental officials have between them met with and sought views from around 60 organisations of and for disabled people. In addition, we have received over 160 written responses from disabled people and their organisations on how well the initial draft criteria worked and if they could be improved. We are looking closely at the contributions we have received and intend to publish another draft of the assessment criteria in the autumn.

We will continue to work closely with disabled people and their organisations as the detail of the assessment criteria and its operation is developed and tested.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many migrants from Eastern Europe in receipt of disability living allowance had *(a)* made national insurance contributions and *(b)* not previously made national insurance contributions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [69441]

Maria Miller: Disability living allowance is a benefit for children and adults paid as a contribution towards the extra costs of disability, depending on the extent of a persons care and/or mobility needs

Disability living allowance is a non-contributory benefit. As national insurance contributions are not required to claim disability living allowance, information regarding a claimant's record of national insurance contributions is not gathered.

Although nationality data are collected on claim forms, this is not collated as it is not required for the administration of the benefit.

Incapacity Benefit

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Scottish Government on health interventions and programmes to reduce the number of claimants of incapacity benefit; and if he will make a statement. [69640]

Chris Grayling: There have been no discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Scottish Government on this specific issue although our Departments work closely together on the Government's plans for welfare reform.

The Department for Work and Pensions has an effective working relationship with officials in the devolved Administrations, including that in Scotland, and ensures that there are many opportunities to discuss issues and concerns in detail.

All those moving to employment and support allowance or jobseeker's allowance as a result of the incapacity benefit reassessment will be able to access the Work programme at an early stage of their claim. Work programme providers are free to innovate and design support that addresses the needs of individuals. They will be paid primarily for the results they achieve in supporting people into sustained employment, and they will be paid more to support people who are further from the labour market.

In addition, Work Choice, launched last October, provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment find and stay in work (including self-employment) and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of individuals who have been on incapacity benefit and recently reassessed in Scotland have been *(a)* placed in the support group, *(b)* placed in the work-related activity group and *(c)* transferred to jobseeker's allowance; and if he will make a statement. [69641]

Chris Grayling: The Department's Management Information indicates that since October 2010, around 7,300 incapacity benefits claimants in Scotland have been through the work capability assessment part of the incapacity benefits reassessment process. This includes those involved in the incapacity benefits reassessment trial, and those assessed face-to-face, cases assessed on paper scrutiny and therefore not requiring a face-to-face work capability assessment, and those that have had a recommendation based on their non-compliance with the assessment process.

However, information on the entire incapacity benefits reassessment process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available at any geographical level. Data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department will publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process, but only once they have been quality assured and are considered robust.

Independent Living Fund

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that no reductions are made in Independent Living Fund payments. [70293]

Maria Miller: As set out in my written ministerial statement on 13 December 2010, *Official Report,* 85-86WS, the Government are committed to safeguarding the position of the existing recipients of Independent Living Fund for the duration of this Parliament.

Jobcentre Plus

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase the use of digital media and communication by Jobcentre Plus; and if he will make a statement. [69699]

Chris Grayling: The Department is fully committed to delivering more of its services online and has a target of delivering 80% of jobseeker's allowance claims online. We are actively looking at how to extend and improve these services.

Currently it is possible to search for jobs, check potential entitlement for working age benefits, and to make a claim to jobseeker's allowance online through Directgov.

From 2012 working age benefit claimants will be able to register, via the Government Gateway, for a secure customer account which they can access through Directgov. This account will improve the online claim service for jobseeker's allowance and enable claimants of the main working age benefits to track their claim and payments and to notify some changes online. Some of these services will be available later this year to a limited number of jobseeker's allowance claimants by invitation.

In the future as we modernise our online vacancy posting service and jobsearch functionality we would also expect that claimants and non-claimants would be able to register online, search for vacancies and receive notifications of suitable vacancies through the customer account.

Jobcentre Plus: Internet

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Jobcentre Plus staff have access to social networking sites that are intended to assist with job searches; and if he will make a statement. [69700]

Chris Grayling: The Department recognises that social media are a valuable tool for engaging with jobseekers and partners. All staff have access to Linkedin and Twitter for business use, and the Department does actively use social networking to communicate with customers, for example through the 'Job Coach' on Linkedin aimed at unemployed professionals.

Access to some internet sites from departmental computers is restricted or blocked. This includes Facebook. However, access has been provided to staff in communications roles where their roles involve use of social media. We are also considering wider use of social networking by Jobcentre Plus staff.

While Jobcentre Plus staff do provide support for claimants looking for work, claimants are also required to use all appropriate jobsearch techniques and resources independently.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephones

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of any profit made by his Department through use of 0845 numbers to call Jobcentre Plus in respect of each number provider in the latest period for which figures are available. [69807]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not receive any revenue through the use of 0845 telephone numbers.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Social Workers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many care workers are claiming jobseeker's allowance. [70301]

Chris Grayling: Although the Department can provide information on the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants who are doing some part-time work for less than 16 hours a week, the type of occupation they are undertaking is not available.

However extensive statistics on jobseeker's allowance claimants are published on the Nomis website at

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp

These include breakdowns of case loads and flows by occupation (both usual and sought). Occupation is categorised according to the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification, so, the number of JSA claimants whose usual occupation is in the group Caring Personal Service Occupations, in Great Britain, as at July 2011, is 72,450. The number seeking a job in Caring Personal Service Occupations in Great Britain at July 2011 is 73,205.

Pensions

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of final salary pension schemes in the UK in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2011. [69601]

Steve Webb: Comparable data for the numbers of pension schemes are only available since March 2006. The numbers of active members of defined benefit (DB) pension schemes in 1995 and in 2009 are given at the end of this response.

Data earlier than 2006 are unavailable as aggregate statistics on private sector pension schemes have only been routinely collated following the launch of the statutory corporation—the Pension Protection Fund (PPF)—in April 2005.

Estimates are for DB schemes (or DB elements of hybrid schemes) in the UK, which are eligible for PPF protection.

These DB schemes include final salary schemes and others whose accruals are based on a career average or other average terms. According to the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (OPSS), in 2009, 23% of private sector DB schemes were based on a career average.

(a) (i) According to the Purple Book 2010, there were 7,751 such DB schemes in the UK in March 2006.

(a) (ii) According to the PPF7800 Index, there were 6,533 such DB schemes in the UK in July 2011.

(b) (i) The aggregate balance of these schemes on a s179 basis in March 2006 was—£22.7 billion. This balance represented assets of £769.5 billion, and s179 liabilities of £792.2 billion.

(b) (ii) The aggregate balance of these schemes on a s179 basis in July 2011 was—£67.3 billion. This balance represented assets of £1,001.4 billion, and s179 liabilities of £1,068.7 billion.

A scheme's s179 liabilities represent the premium that would have to be paid to an insurance company to take on the payment of PPF levels of compensation. This compensation may be lower than full scheme benefits.

It should also be noted that estimates are volatile with equity markets and gilt yields being the main drivers of funding levels.

Membership of pension schemes from the ONS Occupational Pension Scheme Survey are given as follows.

In 1995, there were 4.1 million active members of DB pension schemes in the public sector. In 2009 there were 5.4 million active members of such schemes.

In 1995, there were 5.2 million active members of DB pension schemes in the private sector. In 2009 there were 2.4 million active members of such schemes.

Social Security Benefits: Students

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many higher education students have suspended their studies due to illness or incapacity in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases the allowance or benefit awarded on the first application was *(a)* applied for and *(b)* awarded (i) employment and support allowance and (ii) disability living allowance in that period. [70581]

Chris Grayling: Details of the number of higher education students who have suspended their studies is a matter for the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not keep records of the number of applications or awards for benefit for higher education students who have suspended their studies due to illness or incapacity.

Telephone Services

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Southport of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 487, on 0845 telephone numbers, what the terms of reference are of his Department's internal review of the use of 0845 numbers and the other options available; and if he will make a statement. [64095]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) uses both 0800 and 0845 telephone numbers. 0845 numbers carry a cost to members of the public, however a call-back is offered when they express a concern about the cost of the call.

A review of the use of these numbers has recently been carried out. Its terms of reference were to consider whether the Department could stop using 0845 numbers with the objective that all calls from members of the public to DWP be free.

A number of options were presented, and their feasibility is currently being considered. While this consideration is underway, DWP will continue to provide 0800 'free call' numbers for benefit claim lines and 0845 numbers for other calls.

The options presented were:

Option (i): Replacing 0845 numbers with 0800 numbers. This would provide free calls but at significant cost to DWP due to the additional charges associated with 0800 numbers.

Option (ii): Migrate 0845 numbers now to the 03 range reflecting Ofcom's suggestion for chargeable calls to public services to be at a single national rate.

Option (iii): Retain existing 0845 numbers until Ofcom's final report on numbering in 2012.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of youth unemployment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Coventry local authority area in each of the last 12 months. [70346]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the level of youth unemployment in (a) England, (b) the West Midlands and (c) Coventry local authority area in each of the last 12 months. (070346)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment of 16 to 24 years resident in the Coventry local authority area are not available. As an alternative in Table 1, we have provided the number of people aged 16 to 24 years who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) resident in England, the West Midlands and Coventry for each of the last 12 months.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons aged 16-24 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in England, the West Midlands and Coventry

	England	*West Midlands*	*Coventry*
August 2010	340,095	46,900	2,860
September 2010	344,855	47,775	2,860
October 2010	337,500	46,455	2,805
November 2010	329,275	45,490	2,695
December 2010	324,390	45,140	2,700
January 2011	340,415	47,480	2,835
February 2011	358,765	49,050	2,935
March 2011	355,095	48,680	3,030
April 2011	350,980	48,310	3,000
May 2011	341,710	47,190	2,905
June 2011	336,905	46,595	2,875
July 2011	366,765	50,450	3,150

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest five.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative sources

Universal Credit

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consideration he has given to the provision of welfare waivers for people starting their own businesses using micro-credit; and if he will make a statement; [69639]

(2) what representations he has received on the provision of welfare waivers for people starting their own business using micro-credit; and if he will make a statement. [69701]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State had a meeting on the 13 July with representatives of the Grameen Scotland Foundation at which a proposal to introduce the 'UK Enterprise from Welfare Transition Scheme' to help people into self-employment was discussed. Part of the proposal was to waive or disregard micro finance and the income generated during participation on the scheme across the current benefit system for the first two years of participation.

While the Government welcome initiatives to improve the take up of self-employment as a route out of benefit dependency, it has no plans to introduce specific disregards for this proposal.

However, we are clear that more needs to be done to encourage and help unemployed people to see self employment as a viable route off benefits and into financial independence. We have therefore introduced the new enterprise allowance (NEA). The NEA provides mentoring and financial support in the form of a weekly allowance and small loan.

The NEA is just one element in our wide ranging programme of welfare reform, a major part of which is universal credit and the introduction of the Work programme, both of which will provide more flexible ways of supporting people into sustained work including self-employment.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish an estimate of how many staff will be required for the administration of universal credit. [70492]

Chris Grayling: The Welfare Reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit. Universal credit is expected to be introduced in October 2013.

It is still too early to say how many staff will be required to administer universal credit. We are continuing to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs, and local authorities, to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money.

Detailed plans will inform the introduction of universal credit in 2013.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether new applications for out-of-work support will be treated as claims for universal credit from October 2013 and for in-work support from April 2014. [70493]

Chris Grayling: The timescales the right hon. Member for East Ham refers to reflect the provisional timetable discussed in the White Paper, Universal credit, Welfare that works. These dates remain the Department's planning assumptions.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will announce his plans for supporting the costs of child care in universal credit. [70494]

Chris Grayling: The Government have made a clear commitment to provide support for child care costs as an additional element within universal credit.

During the Commons stage of the Welfare Reform Bill, we held productive discussions with MPs, peers and stakeholder groups, and we are considering the advice and suggestions raised in those. We have promised to return to the House with more information when it is ready.

We will provide information as soon as possible, as child care plays an important part in the work decisions of those who have responsibility for children and therefore we are determined to take the time to get this right.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether local authorities will be compensated for any penalty charges they incur from the early termination of contracts for the administration of housing benefit when housing benefit is replaced by universal credit. [70495]

Steve Webb: My officials continue to work with colleagues in local authorities to assess the impact of introducing universal credit. This work includes the implications for local authorities' existing service contracts and deciding the appropriate action to take.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to announce how many staff will transfer from local authorities to his Department on the merger of housing benefit into universal credit. [70496]

Chris Grayling: The welfare reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit. It also states that we will continue to pay housing benefit to working age customers until we can migrate them successfully on to universal credit, currently expected to be by October 2017. We are working on the precise details of how the transition will work and the effects on housing benefits staff. This approach will ensure an orderly transition and that we have people with relevant skills and experience to support claimants both in work and out of work as they migrate to the new credit.

We will continue to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs and local authorities to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money.

It is still too early to say how many staff and what skills and experience will be required for universal credit. The impact on local authority staff will be affected by the design of the council tax benefit replacement and decisions about the delivery model for universal credit.

We expect to make an announcement on the delivery model for universal credit this autumn.

Universal Credit: Poverty

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what modelling his Department has undertaken into the effect on rates of *(a)* poverty and *(b)* child poverty of the universal credit following its full introduction at each level of take-up; and if he will make a statement. [70398]

Chris Grayling: The estimate of numbers lifted out of poverty as a result of universal credit are based on an assessment of the impact of universal credit using DWP's policy simulation model. This model uses data from the 2008-09 family resources survey (FRS) and uprates incomes and demographics to the relevant year using projections from the Office for Budget Responsibility. The model is able to assess entitlement to universal credit, because of the wide range of personal characteristics reported to the FRS by respondents.

Our best estimate of the impact of take-up is included in the modelling, it is assumed that those currently taking up some, but not all of their benefit entitlements will take up in full under universal credit; and of those taking up none of their current entitlement, around half will do so under the new system.

The combined impact of entitlement changes and increased take-up leads to approximately:

(a) 950,000 individuals being lifted out of poverty

(b) 350,000 children being lifted out of poverty

Universal Credit: Telephone Services

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of staff required to handle customer queries by telephone from universal credit claimants once the new system is introduced. [70518]

Chris Grayling: The welfare reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of universal credit. Universal credit is expected to be introduced in October 2013, and individuals will be migrated to universal credit over the subsequent four years.

We are continuing to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs, and local authorities, to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money.

It is still too early to say how many staff will be required to handle telephone customer queries during the transition period and in the longer term. Detailed plans will inform the introduction of universal credit in 2013.

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of staff of his Department and its agencies who are engaged in telephone handling of customer queries in respect of each of the benefits to be replaced by universal credit. [70522]

Chris Grayling: In preparation for the launch of universal credit the DWP is reviewing its current telephone handling processes. We are also continuing to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs, and local authorities, to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money.

It is still too early to say how many staff will be required to handle telephone customer queries during the transition period and in the longer term. Detailed plans will inform the introduction of universal credit in 2013.

Work Capability Assessment: Atos Healthcare

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether staff employed by Atos Healthcare who are under investigation by the General Medical Council may continue to carry out work capability assessments whilst being investigated. [70294]

Chris Grayling: Where the allegations relate to professional misconduct, Atos will routinely stop the doctor from carrying out work capability assessments. For allegations of a less serious nature the decision is made on a case-by-case basis.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the suitability of Atos Healthcare to conduct the work capability assessment programme. [70504]

Maria Miller: The suitability of Atos Healthcare to conduct work capability assessments was assessed during the contract extension process in 2010. The continued suitability of Atos Healthcare to perform the assessments is reviewed regularly and performance monitored at least monthly.

Work Capability Assessment: Illnesses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 856W, on work capability assessment: illnesses, whether there are circumstances in which those in receipt of incapacity benefit who have a terminal illness may be sent an ESA50 form to complete as part of the migration process to employment and support allowance. [70240]

Chris Grayling: Individuals who are diagnosed with a progressive disease, where death is a likely consequence of that disease and where this is reasonably expected within six months, will be treated as having limited capability for work and limited capability for work-related activity. At any point in the incapacity benefits reassessment process, where there is sufficient evidence that an individual is terminally ill as defined, they will be placed in the support group and no further related information will be requested. However, cases are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, dependant on available evidence, and so a guarantee cannot be provided that an ESA50 will not be sent to the claimant in every case where insufficient information is available.

It should also be noted that existing incapacity benefits (IB) claimants will have already been in receipt of benefit for a period in excess of two years and as such, unless their circumstances have changed during that time, are unlikely to be subject to the provision covering terminal illness within employment and support allowance.

HEALTH

Abortion: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 15 to 24 and *(b)* 25 years and over normally resident in the Peterborough Primary Care Trust area have undergone (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more terminations of pregnancy since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [68658]

Anne Milton: The information is shown in the following table.

Number of previous abortions to women resident in Peterborough primary care trust (PCT)[1] 2002-10

	Age under 25					Age 25 and over						
	0	*1*	*2*	*3+*	*Total age under 25*	*0*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4+*	*Total age 25 and over*	*Total all ages*
2002	238	—	—	—	294	189	82	—	—	—	299	593
2003	251	—	—	—	315	204	79	—	—	—	308	623
2004	268	—	—	—	319	243	58	—	—	—	325	644
2005	275	42	—	—	332	240	75	—	—	—	337	669
2006	286	—	—	—	362	199	103	21	—	—	333	695
2007	277	51	—	—	341	231	108	—	—	—	370	711
2008	269	—	—	—	340	204	120	—	—	—	352	692
2009	301	—	—	—	373	219	83	—	—	—	322	695
2010	282	—	—	—	363	235	115	—	—	—	391	754
Total 2002-10	2,447	517	59	16	3,039	1,964	823	200	32	18	3,037	6,076

'—' Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and 9) in line with Office for National Statistics guidance on the release of abortion statistics, 2005.

[1] Peterborough PCT is used for years 2006-10. Between 2002 and 2005 Peterborough was covered by North Peterborough and South Peterborough PCTs. Prior to 2002 there are no boundary data relating specifically to Peterborough.

Air Ambulance Services

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the quality of air ambulance service provision in England and *(b)* the value for money provided by such air ambulance services. [69497]

Mr Simon Burns: Between 2001 and 2003, the Department commissioned the University of Sheffield to conduct a survey of air ambulance service provision in the United Kingdom, and review the published evidence on the costs and benefits.

It found that the main benefit of air ambulances is for serious blunt trauma patients, particularly those injured in road traffic accidents with severe injuries. If an air ambulance responded to four or more of these patients per year, it could be seen as cost-effective in terms of quality adjusted life years.

However, there was not enough reliable evidence, relevant to England, to judge whether there is any benefit in any other groups of patients, and the targeting of helicopters to serious blunt trauma patients was deemed to be poor. Therefore the large number of non-blunt trauma cases attended by air ambulances currently reduces cost-effectiveness overall.

Cancer: Drugs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been prescribed cancer drugs since the introduction of the Cancer Drugs Fund who would not otherwise have received such drugs in each strategic health authority area since 5 May 2010. [68175]

Mr Simon Burns: The Cancer Drugs Fund was launched on 1 April 2011. Over three years, the fund is providing £200 million a year to help thousands of cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. As an interim measure, an additional £50 million was made available to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2010-11 to support improved access to cancer drugs. Since October 2010, this funding has so far helped over 5,000 cancer patients in England to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended.

A final breakdown of SHA activity for 2010-11 is being confirmed and a copy will be placed in the Library when this information is available.

Cannabis: Mental Illness

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 18 and 24, *(c)* between 24 and 30 and *(d)* 30 and above were admitted to hospital for mental illnesses attributable to the use of cannabis or skunk cannabis in (i) England, (ii) the North West and (iii) St Helens in each of the last 10 years. [69009]

Mr Simon Burns: Data on the numbers of people admitted to hospital with mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of cannabis are available from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The following tables provide information on the finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (ICD10 code F12) in England and the North West by age groups *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 18-23, *(c)* 24-29 and *(d)* 30 and above. HES analysis has established that no people were admitted to hospital for mental and behavioural disorders attributable to the use of cannabis or skunk cannabis in St Helen's primary care trust, so no data has been provided for this local area.

All England

	Age group					
	Under 18	*18 to under 24*	*24 to under 30*	*30 and above*	*Age not known*	*Total*
2000-01	69	192	126	194	—	581
2001-02	117	205	134	217	1	674
2002-03	86	245	142	231	—	704
2003-04	140	294	175	281	—	890
2004-05	116	283	210	259	—	868
2005-06	128	300	224	293	1	946
2006-07	92	218	175	251	14	750
2007-08	93	235	131	276	—	735
2008-09	71	197	163	219	1	651
2009-10	93	237	155	225	3	713

Q31 North West strategic health authority

	Age group				
	Under 18	*18 to under 24*	*24 to under 30*	*30 and above*	*Total*
2000-01	14	11	9	13	47
2001-02	13	25	15	18	71
2002-03	12	31	14	33	90
2003-04	26	39	25	38	128
2004-05	23	31	29	27	110
2005-06	27	43	32	38	140
2006-07	13	32	21	35	101
2007-08	15	34	15	37	101
2008-09	18	36	29	45	128
2009-10	23	56	31	42	152

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Data Protection

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what occasions security breaches relating to official material stored on equipment owned by his Department's officials have been identified in each of the last five years; [70506]

(2) on what occasions security breaches of his Department's IT system caused by *(a)* loss of mobile devices provided by his Department, *(b)* loss of personal mobile devices owned by officials and used for Departmental business, *(c)* loss of laptops provided by his Department, *(d)* loss of personal laptops owned by officials and used for Departmental business and *(e)* malicious attacks on his Department's IT systems have been identified in each of the last five years; [70508]

(3) what security guidance he has issued to officials of his Department on the use of *(a)* mobile devices, *(b)* laptops and *(c)* e-mail accounts, *(d)* other IT equipment which are not supported by his Department's IT systems; [70509]

(4) what security guidance he has issued to officials of his Department on the use of *(a)* mobile devices and *(b)* laptops which have been provided for official use by his Department. [70510]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last five years no instances have been identified of security breaches relating to official material stored on equipment owned by departmental officials, or of security breaches caused by:

(a) loss of mobile devices provided by the Department,

(b) loss of personal mobile devices owned by officials and used for departmental business,

(c) loss of laptops provided by the Department,

(d) loss of personal laptops owned by officials and used for departmental business,

(e) malicious attacks on the Department's IT systems.

The Department's Acceptable Use of ICT Policy states what staff are permitted and not permitted to do when using officially provided IT equipment, and is the foundation of security guidance to staff. The policy includes guidance on the use of email, including advice that staff should not use home or web-based personal email accounts for official business, and restrictions on sending sensitive or protectively marked messages to external email addresses. Complementary guidance (based on the website Get Safe online) includes information on how to protect home computers, personal mobile telephones and other devices. The Department has also issued specific guidance on the risks of mobile phone hacking.

Further security guidance is available on home working, use of departmental mobile devices, looking after portable equipment, and home computer protection.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69271]

Mr Simon Burns: For value for money savings realised through procurement activity recorded in 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Department has used a methodology based on guidance issued to Departments by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). Using this, the Department has, since April 2009, tracked and reported savings, ensuring that firm evidence is in place to show when contracts are let at a lower cost than the baseline.

In addition, the Department has also realised savings as a result of procuring its non-pay spend through framework arrangements and contracts set up by the Buying Solutions organisation (now the Government Procurement Service) and the Central Office of Information (for marketing, advertising and communications spend). These organisations use their own methodologies to report the savings realised for each Department. Details of those savings methodologies can be obtained from the Government Procurement Service and the Central Office of Information directly.

The Department does not currently collect information on the methodology used to estimate procurement savings through its non-departmental public bodies.

Disability: Children

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to improving respite care for parents of disabled children. [67616]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

This Government have committed more than £800 million to support local authorities to deliver short breaks services over the current spending review period.

From April of this year all local authorities were required to deliver a range of short breaks services and to publish a statement to parents about the full service range and how services can be accessed. It is our intention that greater transparency about availability of services will drive improvements.

Local authorities will continue to receive practical support to deliver short breaks services through a Department for Education grant with an external organisation. The Department is in the process of recruiting a partner organisation to take on that role.

The Department for Education will continue to fund parent carer forums for the parents and carers of disabled children, which have access to support and training which enables them to work better with local authorities to design services that meet their needs.

Doctors: Communication Skills

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether practising doctors are required to undertake in-career training in communication skills. [68161]

Anne Milton: It is the responsibility of individual doctors and their employers to consider their continuing professional development needs.

In 2004 the General Medical Council (GMC) published its guidance "Continuing Professional Development", which aimed to make explicit for the first time the ways in which doctors might identify their learning needs and fulfil their professional obligation to keep up to date.

The GMC's "Education Strategy 2011-13" includes a commitment to review its role in relation to doctors' continuing professional development (CPD). The review is being taken forward by a small working group which brings together the GMC and key interest groups, including the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, employers, postgraduate deaneries and others. One of the outcomes of this review will be a revised edition of their CPD guidance.

Continuing professional development is one of the proposed elements for the revalidation of doctors, which is currently being developed.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of free eye tests for people with certain conditions; what plans he has for the future *(a)* qualifying criteria and *(b)* provision of free eye tests; and if he will make a statement. [69742]

Mr Simon Burns: Free national health service sight tests are available to people diagnosed with diabetes or glaucoma.

Free NHS sight tests are also available to priority groups including children, people aged 60 and over, people on low incomes and defined categories of people at particular risk of developing eye disease.

There are currently no plans to change eligibility for free NHS sight tests.

General Practitioners

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of GP surgeries which have discontinued evening surgeries in *(a)* England and *(b)* Manchester in the last 12 months. [69805]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

Government Procurement Card

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Government Procurement Cards were used by staff of his Department between *(a)* May 2006 and June 2007 and *(b)* June 2009 and May 2010; and what the (i) name of the supplier, (ii) date and (iii) value was of each transaction during this period. [68354]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hereford and South Herefordshire (Jesse Norman) on 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 634W.

Health Services: Standards

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the long-term effects of a reduction to 10 per cent. of the weighting for health inequalities in the primary care trust allocation formulae. [70282]

Mr Simon Burns: The Disability Free Life Expectancy (DFLE) adjustment (referred to by the previous Administration as the health inequalities adjustment) was introduced in 2009-10 to address the reduction in avoidable health inequalities' objective of the weighted capitation formula for primary care trust (PCT) allocations.

The DFLE adjustment is based on a measure of health status which targets money at the areas where it will be most effective.

For the 2011-12 PCT allocations, Ministers felt that a weight of 10% of the overall formula strikes the right balance between ensuring that vital work on health inequalities, including public health, continues and that funding to support access to health care is sufficient.

This Government are committed to reducing health inequalities. Subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill, once fully established, the NHS Commissioning Board would take over responsibility for the allocation of resources from the Department and will have a duty to have regard to reducing inequalities in access to, and the outcomes of, health care. In addition, the Department will allocate a ring-fenced public health grant to local authorities, based on relative population health.

Hepatitis

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the diagnosis and treatment rates of hepatitis C among south Asian communities. [70029]

Anne Milton: We expect local national health service organisations to take appropriate steps to improve the detection, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C among south Asian communities.

The Department is grant-funding the Hepatitis C Trust to increase hepatitis C testing in partnership with local NHS organisations through community pharmacies and an outreach mobile information and testing service, including for south Asian communities. NHS Choices hosts a dedicated website for south Asian communities at:

www.nhs.uk/hepatitisC/southasian

including essential information and advice about hepatitis C.

The Department has funded the Royal College of General Practitioners to produce an educational resource for GPs and other health care professionals on hepatitis C (and hepatitis B), involving online and face-to-face learning. The resource is intended to assist in increasing the detection, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C in groups at risk of infection, including south Asian communities.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is developing public health guidance for health care professionals and the NHS on promoting and offering hepatitis C (and hepatitis B) testing to those at risk.

Hip Replacements

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a hip replacement operation was in *(a)* St Helens, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in each of the last 15 years. [68907]

Mr Simon Burns: The median time waited, in days, for hip replacement operations, is shown in the following tables.

Median time waited, in days, for hip replacement operations

	Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust	*Merseyside*	*England*
2009-10	74	67	77
2008-09	52	65	75
2007-08	93	92	107
2006-07	148	139	148

	St Helens PCT and Halton PCT	*Merseyside*	*England*
2005-06	174	151	158
2004-05	222	193	182
2003-04	243	199	217
2002-03	260	206	229
2001-02	264	218	220

	St Helens PCT and Halton PCT	Merseyside	England
2000-01	257	254	212
1999-2000	241	212	198
1998-99	236	245	198
1997-98	231	236	181
1996-97	213	206	162
1995-96	[1]—	[1]—	157

[1] PCT data not available prior to 1996-97.

Notes:

1. From 2006-07 to present, Merseyside data comprise Halton and St Helens PCT, Knowsley PCT, Liverpool PCT, Sefton PCT and Wirral PCT.
2. Prior to 2006-07, Merseyside data comprised St Helens PCT, Halton PCT, Knowsley PCT, South Liverpool PCT, Central Liverpool PCT, North Liverpool PCT, Southport and Formby PCT, South Sefton PCT, Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT and Bebington and West Wirral PCT.
3. In 2006-07 the following mergers occurred: St Helens PCT and Halton PCT formed Halton and St Helens PCT; South Liverpool PCT, Central Liverpool PCT and North Liverpool PCT formed Liverpool PCT; Southport and Formby PCT and South Sefton PCT formed Sefton PCT; and Birkenhead and Wallasey PCT and Bebington and West Wirral PCT formed Wirral PCT.
4. PCT level data are not available prior to 1996-97. Therefore data for 1995-96 are provided at national level only.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Lung Diseases: Cardiovascular System

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of deaths attributable to *(a)* long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and *(b)* all cardiovascular causes in each local authority. [69631]

Anne Milton: The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) estimated, on the basis of 2008 data, that particulate air pollution (measured as PM$_{2.5}$) had an effect on the mortality of the United Kingdom population equivalent to 29,000 deaths in 2008. However, the Committee considered it very unlikely that this represents the total number of individuals affected. Instead it speculated that, given that much of the effect of air pollution on mortality is linked to cardiovascular deaths, then PM$_{2.5}$s acting together with other factors, may have made some smaller contribution to the earlier deaths of up to 200,000 people.

A subgroup of COMEAP is currently considering whether estimates can be made for smaller areas of the UK.

We do not hold information on the estimated number of deaths attributable to all cardiovascular causes in each local authority. The Office for National Statistics holds data on mortality rates for cardiovascular diseases.

Mental Health Services

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to review the provision of in-patient secure accommodation for mentally ill patients following implementation of the proposals in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. [68837]

Paul Burstow: The Department has no intention to review the provision of in-patient secure accommodation following the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. The provision of in-patient accommodation is a matter for the national health service.

Since the only proposed legislative change applies to Mental Health Treatment Requirements, which are unlikely to impact on secure mental health services, these impacts are unlikely to distort greatly the current interchange between the Criminal Justice System and Mental Health services. Planning for this interface will be a matter for NHS commissioners, based on local planning assumptions and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments.

Mental Illness: Drugs

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned and *(b)* plans to commission on the social, economic and health costs of brain damage as a result of excessive and long-term use of legally prescribed benzodiazepines. [70291]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned, and has no plans to commission research specifically on the social, economic and health costs of brain damage as a result of excessive and long-term use of legally prescribed benzodiazepines.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including use of benzodiazepines. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

NHS: Data Protection

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what security guidance *(a)* he and *(b)* NHS Connecting for Health have issued to NHS personnel on the use of (i) mobile devices, (ii) laptops, (iii) e-mail accounts and (iv) other IT equipment provided by NHS organisations for official use that relate to (A) non-patient-identifiable and (B) patient-identifiable information. [70507]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health, which incorporates NHS Connecting for Health, has provided a wide range of information security guidance in the form of a code of practice supported by an online library of good practice guidelines and an information governance toolkit. The guidance reflects the Cabinet Office data handling review in 2008. A number of letters have also been issued by the NHS chief executive, which make it clear that patient-identifiable and other personal data must only be held on encrypted mobile devices and laptops and such information should not be e-mailed in an unencrypted form. Guidance on other types of information follows best risk management practice, which recommends that the protection provided reflects the sensitivity of the information held.

NHS: Microsoft

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS paid to Microsoft in annual licence fees *(a)* in total and *(b)* via subcontractors in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [69630]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table details the amount paid by the Department on behalf of the national health service to Microsoft for desktop licences for the fiscal years 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Microsoft national agreements expenditure: 2007-11

	£
2007-08	76,399,906.00
2008-09	80,385,292.00
2009-10	91,384,336.00
2010-11	116,317,127.50
Total	364,486,661.50

Notes:

1. The figures are the total of sums paid to Microsoft by the Department on behalf of the NHS via appointed resellers (Trustmarque, Computacenter and Bytes) under central agreements held by NHS Connecting for Health on behalf of the NHS.

2. The figures exclude any additional local purchases of Microsoft products, for example Microsoft Visio, Microsoft Project and Microsoft server licences which may have been made by individual trusts via separate local agreements to which NHS Connecting for Health is not party.

Nottingham City Primary Care Trust: Finance

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the financial effects of his recent changes to the NHS funding formula on Nottingham City Primary Care Trust. [69587]

Mr Simon Burns: In December 2010, Nottingham City Primary Care Trust (PCT) received total revenue allocations of £550.3 million for 2011-12. This represents a total cash increase of £21.6 million, or 4.1% which is 1.1% above the England average. The allocation includes a recurrent revenue allocation of £522.4 million and a non-recurrent allocation of £27.9 million for general ophthalmic services, primary dental services, pharmaceutical services and support for joint working between health and social care.

At the close of 2010-11, under the previous formula, Nottingham City PCT was 6.2% below target for the recurrent component of its allocation. At the opening of 2011-12, under the changes to the funding formula, the PCT was 5.7% below target.

Nottingham City PCT received higher than average funding growth in 2011-12 to move it towards target. At the close of 2011-12 the PCT will be 4.7% below target for recurrent funding.

Orphan Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is able to request a formal opinion from the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services when taking decisions on ultra-orphan treatments. [68816]

Mr Simon Burns: It is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to consider whether to consult the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) during an appraisal for a high-cost, low-volume drug. However, the NICE topic selection team and the secretariat of AGNSS work very closely in considering the most appropriate route for looking at high-cost, low-volume drugs for the treatment of patients with very rare conditions.

Pharmacy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he proposes any changes to the *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* monitoring of community pharmacy services. [69431]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the successful passage through Parliament of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011, it is proposed that, in England, functions that currently lie with primary care trusts (PCTs) in relation to the commissioning and monitoring of pharmaceutical services will pass to the NHS Commissioning Board when PCTs are abolished.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the adequacy of supply of medicines for community pharmacies. [69491]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and pharmaceutical supply chain stakeholders are working collaboratively, within the Medicines Supply Chain Group, to better understand and mitigate the impact of supply difficulties so that patients receive the medicines they need in a timely manner. "Best Practice for Ensuring the Efficient Supply and Distribution of Medicines to Patients", was published in February jointly by the Group. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Slaughterhouses: Closures

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many small to medium-sized slaughter houses in England closed in each of the last five years. [70315]

Anne Milton: The numbers of red and poultry meat slaughterhouses that have closed in the last five years is as follows:

Size[1]	*Type*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Medium	Red meat slaughterhouses	2	3	1	1	0	7
	Poultry meat slaughterhouse	4	3	3	1	2	13
	Total	6	6	4	2	2	20
Small	Red meat slaughterhouses	1	2	4	3	2	12
	Poultry meat slaughterhouse	8	7	3	4	1	23

Size[1]	Type	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
	Total	9	9	7	7	3	35

[1] Size is based on the following classification:
Small—throughput of up to 5,000 livestock units a year
Medium—throughput of between 5,000 and 50,000 livestock units a year
Large—throughput of between 50,000 and 125,000 livestock units a year
Very large—throughput over 125,000 units a year

Smoking: Public Places

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has provided advice to local authorities who wish to extend the smoking ban to parks and other public places. [69709]

Anne Milton: No such advice has been provided by the Department.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure consistency in the *(a)* application, *(b)* scope and *(c)* operation of the smoking ban in England and Wales. [69712]

Anne Milton: The scope of smokefree legislation for England and Wales is set out within part 1, chapter 1 of the Health Act 2006.

'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England' was published in March 2011, and sets out that the Government believe that the aims of smokefree legislation continue to be effectively achieved and that levels of compliance and public support for the law are high.

To support the application and operation of smokefree legislation by local authorities in England, Local Government Regulation, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the Trading Standards Institute have jointly published guidance titled 'Implementation of smokefree legislation in England: Guidance for council regulatory officers and Implementation of smokefree legislation in England: Associated issues'. Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

The application and operation of smokefree legislation in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Government. A group convened by the Welsh Local Government Association has published guidance titled "Enforcement Guidance and Protocols for Smoke-Free Public Places: Guidance for officers in the enforcement of provision of the Health Act 2006 and Smoke-Free Premises etc". A copy has been placed in the Library.

Specialised Service Transitional Oversight Group

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who instructed that the Specialised Service Transitional Oversight Group be established; on what date the decision to establish the group was taken; when the group was formed; what the *(a)* name and *(b)* occupation is of each member of the group; and what advice the group has given to NHS commissioning bodies on the commissioning of stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment. [69131]

Mr Simon Burns: The Specialised Service Transitional Oversight Group was set up in shadow form prior to formal approval for establishment from the Commissioning Development Board in April 2011. It's members and their occupations are:

Member	*Occupation*
Sir Neil McKay	Chair of the Transitional Oversight Group
Kate Caston	Transitional Programme Lead-Specialised Services, NHS Commissioning Board Implementation Team Department of Health
Gerard Hetherington	Director Clinical Programmes Department of Health
Anne McDonald	Deputy Director Forensic Mental Health and Disability Department of Health
Rachel Atkinson	Deputy Director, Reducing Re-offending, Ministry of Justice
John Bewick	Director of Commissioning Development, NHS South West
Ailsa Claire OBE	Director of Commissioning Development, NHS Yorkshire and the Humber
Paul Watson	Chief Executive, NHS Suffolk
Teresa Moss	Director of the National Specialised Commissioning Team
Kathy McLean	Medical Director, NHS East Midlands
David Black	Director of Public Health Derbyshire NHS Derbyshire County
Sally Brearley	NHS Future Forum, Patient and Public Engagement Worker Specialist Services Group London
Ian Poree	Director of Commissioning and Commercial National Offender Management Service
Denise White	Programme Support Officer Department of Health
Sharon Beamish	Director, East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group
Catherine O'Connell	Director East of England Specialised Commissioning Group
Karen Helliwell	Director, West Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group

To date the Transitional Oversight Group has given no formal advice to NHS commissioning bodies on individual treatments and interventions of stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment.

Warwickshire Primary Care Trust

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many managers there were in Warwickshire primary care trust in each year since 2007. [69528]

Mr Simon Burns: Information from national health service hospital and community health services on senior managers and managers in the Warwickshire primary care trust at 30 September each year is shown in the following table:

Headcount

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Warwickshire primary care trust	83	106	118	140
Senior Manager	34	16	22	31
Central functions	30	16	20	27
Hotel, property and estates	1	—	—	1
Clinical support	3	—	2	3
Manager	49	90	96	109
Central functions	39	74	76	88
Hotel, property and estates	2	4	5	7
Clinical support	8	12	15	14

Note:
It should be noted that headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.
Source:
NHS Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what major projects his Department has funded in Afghanistan which involve *(a)* government and civil society and *(b)* economic infrastructure and budget support since the start of UK military operations; and who the recipients were of such funding. [69902]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: All projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Afghanistan can be found using the Project Information Database which can be accessed via:

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/

and selecting 'Afghanistan' as the location. You are then able to filter the search further by using the 'Sector Groups' function. The database does not include information on projects which ended before the website went live in August 2009. Obtaining complete programme information outside this period would incur disproportionate cost.

DFID does not provide budget support to Afghanistan.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on rail track construction in Afghanistan in each year since the start of UK military operations. [69903]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: To date the Department for International Development has not funded any rail track construction in Afghanistan since the start of UK military operations.

However, the UK Government have recently contributed £35 million to the new Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF) which is managed by the Asian Development Bank. Future AITF programming is likely to include investment in rail, in line with the Afghan Government's National Priority Programmes on infrastructure.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many miles of rail track his Department has funded in Afghanistan in each year since the start of UK military operations. [69904]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development has not funded any rail track construction in Afghanistan since the start of UK military operations.

Africa: Agriculture

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had on future levels of financial support for the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. [68094]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no plans to fund the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) at the present time.

In December 2010, DFID considered FARA's request for new funding against the coalition Government's emphasis on demonstrating value for money and delivering results. Our decision, which was relayed to FARA in December 2010, was that we would focus our support to African research on the two African sub-regional organisations of the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), which are more closely aligned to these priorities.

Africa: Droughts

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to countries that are experiencing an influx of refugees arising from the drought in the Horn of Africa. [68471]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In response to the drought and population displacement in the Horn of Africa, the UK has directly allocated £124.29 million to humanitarian agencies working in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Of this amount, £10 million has been earmarked specifically for Somali refugees in Ethiopia and Kenya, who now number more than 500,000.

The UK's overall package of support will benefit more than 2 million people in the Horn of Africa, including hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees. In Ethiopia this includes over 1.6 million people, including Somali refugees, who will receive food and nutrition assistance for three months. In Kenya this includes over 130,000 Somali refugees now in Dadaab refugee camp who will benefit from clean water and health care services.

Burma: Refugees

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the United Nations Refugee Agency to assist refugees from Burma who are in Malaysia. [68686]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided no funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) specifically to assist refugees from Burma who are in Malaysia. From 2007 to 2011 DFID provided UNHCR with £96 million in core funding to enable it to respond to emergency situations wherever they arise.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in each of the last three years; and what projects such funding was spent on. [68687]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development does not directly fund projects focused on Rohingya refugees but provides core contributions to the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) and United Nations agencies, who are active in Bangladesh in this area. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) manages the official camps. The World Health Organisation, the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund have also been working with Rohingyas within the camps and in the surrounding communities over the past three years.

Commonwealth Development Corporation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date the Commonwealth Development Corporation first appointed a person designated as the appointed representative under Regulation 6 of the Money Laundering Regulations 2003. [69633]

Mr Duncan: CDC has not appointed any person as an "appointed representative" under Regulation 6 of the Money Laundering Regulations 2003 because appointed representatives are not applicable to the business that CDC carries out.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date the Commonwealth Development Corporation first appointed a person designated as the relevant person under Part 3 of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007. [69634]

Mr Duncan: As CDC is itself a "relevant person" under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, CDC has not appointed anyone else for that purpose. CDC had a Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO) prior to the Money Laundering Regulations 2003 coming into force and appointed a "nominated officer" (the term used for a MLRO in the regulations) on 8 April 2004 as required by both the 2003 and 2007 Money Laundering Regulations.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which months in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010 the Commonwealth Development Corporation made no reports of suspicious activity. [69635]

Mr Duncan: As a matter of general practice, CDC does not disclose any information relating to suspicious activity reports (SAR) as it believes that were it to do so, it could be at risk of committing the offence of "tipping off" under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68951]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no senior civil servants who have worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in any of the last four years.

A list of supplier contracts issued to these organisations in the past four years has been placed in the Library of the House.

DFID does not retain a central record of individual consultants who provide advice as part of a contract with a supplier organisation. To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68754]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) received around 550 letters from hon. Members in June 2011.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69269]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses its Procurement Efficiency Savings Benefits Policy as the methodology for recording procurement savings. This is based on the Benefits Methodology Guide published by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Markets and Collaborative Procurement (MCP) Programme. DFID adopted this methodology in October 2010; prior to that date no formal methodology was used.

Research

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's strategic research priorities are. [69258]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The research strategy for the Department for International Development has three broad aims: the first is to support the development of new technologies which would have an impact on poverty or the effects of poverty, such as new vaccines, drugs or drought-tolerant crops; the second is to find better and more cost-effective ways of delivering aid and development assistance to those who need it; and the third is to increase understanding of key development questions to support best policy choices.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on academic research since May 2010. [69259]

Mr Duncan: The amount spent on centrally funded research by the Department for International Development in the period 1 May 2010 to 31 July 2011 was £225,961,207.

Ministerial Overseas Visits

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department publishes on foreign visits to be undertaken by Ministers of his Department; how much prior notification is provided to external bodies of such visits; and how such information is publicised. [68559]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: For security reasons, the Department for International Development (DFID) does not publish information on foreign visits in advance. For the same reasons, only external bodies directly involved in a particular overseas visit would receive prior notification of DFID Ministers' travel proposals.

DFID submits quarterly returns to the Cabinet Office providing details of all ministerial visits that have taken place in that quarter.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69507]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The only internship programme currently being supported within the Department for International Development (DFID) is the Cabinet Office programme designed to provide work experience to ethnic minority and under-represented students aged between 16 and 18 years; DFID accommodated three students as part of this programme over a two week period in July 2011.

DFID has developed a 'Business and Innovation Fellows Programme' designed to supplement the private sector skills and experience of DFID staff. This will involve short term and unpaid input from experienced private sector specialists. The first secondee, who is a knowledge and information specialist, started in DFID on 22 August 2011.

DFID departments also independently provide unpaid work experience for school aged students but these are not managed centrally nor formally recorded.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with its research partners on ensuring that agricultural research funded by his Department reaches smallholder farmers who would benefit the most from its findings in a timely, accessible and intelligible form. [68026]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Ensuring that the end products of research are what small holder farmers need is the best way of translating research into impact. This is why the UK is now leading efforts to increase the accountability of international, regional and national research organisations to small holder farmers and other users of research.

We recognise that products and technology have to reach famers. The UK has invested heavily in getting research into widespread use through better; communications. For example, the Research into Use Programme (RIU) commissions Kenya-based ShujaazFM to cover relevant agricultural messages in free comic books. The comic is focused on the needs of young people in both urban and rural areas and engages them through popular culture and combining accessible youth-focused media: the comic, daily syndicated FM radio and TV programmes and interactive SMS. Additional DFID investment in June 2010 raised circulation to 600,000 copies per month, with an anticipated readership of 12 million. ShujaazFM won the 2011 Special Award at the One World Media Awards.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on extension services in developing countries to ensure that agricultural research funded by his Department reaches the end user in each of the last five years. [68028]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not collect specific data on expenditure on agricultural extension services. However several country programmes have programmes that are seeking to improve agricultural production and the outcomes for smallholder farmers, and as part of these programmes may be contributing to building the capacity of extension services.

We also fund a number of specific agricultural research initiatives which will provide stronger evidence of how to get research into widespread use more quickly through effective partnerships with the national extension agencies and also with the private sector, NGOs and farmers organisations. This information is shared with others involved in agricultural development, including small-scale farmers themselves.

Developing Countries: Domestic Service

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on domestic workers in developing countries of the International Labour Organisation's Convention on Domestic Workers. [68688]

Mr Duncan: We have not made a specific assessment of the potential impact on domestic workers in developing countries of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) Convention on Domestic Workers. The Government recognise the importance of protecting vulnerable workers worldwide, and continues to support developing countries in implementing national labour laws, ensuring decent work for all workers including domestic workers. In addition we plan to look at the impact of the ILO Convention through the Asia Regional Anti-Trafficking Programme which will include a focus on migrant workers from India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Developing Countries: Food

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of local, national and regional *(a)* emergency and *(b)* strategic food reserves to alleviating the effects of food price volatility in developing countries. [68582]

Mr Duncan: At the meeting of Agriculture Ministers in June, G20 members agreed to ask the World Food Programme (WFP) to develop a pilot proposal for an emergency food reserves system, to complement existing regional and national food reserves. Department for International Development (DFID) staff are currently participating in the working group set up to support WFP in preparing a feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis for this pilot.

G20 countries, including the UK, do not advocate the development of physical food reserves as a means of alleviating the effects of food price volatility in developing countries. The proposed pilot will not aim to fill commercial gaps or purchase or release stocks large enough to impact on wider food markets or commodity price levels. Other measures included in the G20 Agriculture Action Plan—such as the Agricultural Market Information System to improve data on agricultural markets and an international Rapid Response Forum to co-ordinate action when agricultural markets become more volatile—are intended to reduce the negative impacts of price volatility on the poor.

Horn of Africa: Sexual Offences

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of sexual assault of female refugees in the Horn of Africa; what steps are being taken to safeguard such refugees; and what further steps are being considered. [68594]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In Kenya last month, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) released the report of a rapid assessment of Gender Based Violence in Dadaab refuge camp. The report made several recommendations including improving the access to quality health services, provision of age appropriate emotional support, establishment of female only safe areas for the reporting of protection concerns, and that all sectors of camp life must take prevention and risk mitigation actions to minimise potential risks and violence to women and girls.

By contrast, in Ethiopia there are limited data or confirmed reports of sexual assault of female refugees. However, recent assessments by aid agencies in the Dolo Ado refugee camps, now hosting over 118,000 Somali refugees (of whom 53.5% are female), have highlighted a number of risk factors that make female refugees vulnerable to sexual and gender based violence.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and other aid agencies are working with community members to improve the level of services, expertise of staff and awareness in the refugee camps to address these risks. We are working to ensure that this happens.

India: Overseas Aid

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure the targeting of development aid at people living in unstable and fragile circumstances as a result of the conflict in north east India. [68685]

Mr Duncan: We have agreed with the Government of India to focus our development co-operation on a number of large states which contain a substantial proportion of the people living on less than $1.25 per day. We are therefore not targeting our development aid at those affected by conflict in north east India. We are, however, supporting some national programmes of the Indian Government, such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Universal Elementary Education Programme), which benefit the north-eastern states.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to provide support in respect of battle-related deaths in India between 2000 and 2008. [68691]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not plan to provide support specifically for those affected by battle-related deaths in India between 2000 and 2008. DFID has agreed with the Government of India to focus our development co-operation on a number of India's poorest states. Our support will be targeted to the poorest women and girls, to help them obtain quality schooling, health care, nutrition and jobs. We will also help unlock the potential of the private sector to deliver jobs, products, infrastructure and basic services.

Kenya: Refugees

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to support UN efforts to encourage the Kenyan Government to allow the expansion of refugee camps in Kenya. [68595]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government have been pressing the Government of Kenya throughout 2011 on the need to allocate more space for refugee camps, working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The Minister for Internal Security recently confirmed that they would open Ifo II camp in Dadaab, which is expected to be occupied by approximately 40,000 refugees. However, with nearly 1,300 people, including children, arriving from Somalia on a daily basis, the process of decongesting the Dadaab camps needs to be accelerated. I raised these points with the Kenyan Prime Minister and the Minister for Internal Security during my visit to Kenya in July. The UK is also providing a substantial package of financial support through UN agencies, to assist new refugees in the Dadaab camps.

Malawi: Overseas Aid

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department plans to publish its revised Operational Plan for Malawi. [68729]

Mr Duncan: We are in the process of revising the Department for International Development's Operational Plan for Malawi following the announcement on 14 July 2011 to suspend general budget support to Malawi. This revision includes discussing certain policy issues with the Government of Malawi. The Malawi Government's response will affect DFID's Operational Plan, which we intend to publish once these policy issues have been clarified.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects in Malawi listed on his Department's website on 19 July 2011 will be reduced as a result of the freeze on direct aid to that country. [68730]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government announced that they were suspending general budget support to Malawi on 14 July 2011. This decision does not mean that DFID intends to reduce the amount of UK aid Malawi receives, but that we intend to deliver that aid through other channels. Hence there are no plans to reduce any projects listed on the website as a result of the announcement to suspend general budget support to Malawi.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the aid formerly committed to Malawi between 2011 and 2015 will not now be delivered following his Department's freeze on direct aid to that country. [68731]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government announced on 14 July 2011 that they were suspending general budget support to Malawi. This decision does not mean that the Department for International Development (DFID) intends to reduce the amount of UK aid Malawi receives. It simply means we intend to deliver that aid through other channels. We are determined to continue funding other programmes in Malawi that protect the poor and deliver basic services like health and education. This means keeping girls in school, ensuring women deliver their babies safely and helping farmers grow enough food to feed their families and communities.

DFID is currently revising its Operational Plan for Malawi following the 14 July 2011 announcement on general budget support. This will set out the specific plans and results for the programme over the next four years.

Overseas Aid

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist UK companies in tendering for overseas contracts funded by his Department. [68171]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) launched a Supplier Portal at the beginning of April 2011. The Portal provides an electronic platform of easy single point access to allow all our suppliers, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to have the opportunity to compete equally for DFID contracts. There is no charge to the supplier for this service, which includes automated alerts for new opportunities.

DFID actively engages with suppliers through participation at events like the British Expertise seminars. These forums are an opportunity for suppliers to gain a greater understanding of DFID business, engage directly with senior Procurement Officials and openly discuss DFID procurement policies to identify further opportunities to improve.

All competitions for procurements with a value of £100,000 or above are carried out in line with the European Union (EU) Directives and are advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). The EU principles of fair and open competition are also applied to lower value procurements. All OJEU adverts are automatically shown on the DFID Supplier Portal.

Overseas Aid: Private Sector

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of aid he proposes will be delivered through the private sector. [68618]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not allocate funds on the basis of an organisation's business profile. Partners are chosen on a case-by-case basis to ensure maximum value for money. For planning purposes DFID allocates money by priority pillars. The pillars are wealth creation, governance and security, climate change and global partnerships, as well as DFID funding in support of the Millennium Development Goals (education, health, water and sanitation and humanitarian assistance).

DFID's new Private Sector Department will play a key role in promoting private sector activities within wealth creation, as well as the other pillars. More detail on DFID's approach to working with the private sector is contained within the paper titled "The Engine of Development: The Private Sector and Prosperity for Poor People". This can be found on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2011/Mitchell-Harness-dynamism-and-energy-of-private-enterprise-in-international-development/

For more information on current activities in this area and budget allocations please see the DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11, which can also be found on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what checks his Department has put in place to ensure that UK aid and assistance to Gaza is used for its intended purpose. [68494]

Mr Duncan: The UK takes extensive precautions to ensure that our assistance to Gaza is used to meet the humanitarian needs of the civilian population and support the legitimate Gazan economy.

We carefully select the partners we work with in Gaza. They are, in the main, United Nations agencies and reputable international non-governmental organisations with proven track records of effective delivery in Gaza. Our funding to the Palestinian Authority (which spends approximately half its budget in Gaza) is administered through a World Bank managed trust fund, which has stringent audit requirements. We work closely with all our partners on project design to ensure that our support reaches only its intended beneficiaries and that European Union and UK legislation on anti-terrorist funding is adhered to.

Private Sector

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department have expertise in the private sector. [68619]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development currently has 58 accredited private sector development advisers. Twelve more are due to join us this year and we plan to recruit 12 more next year.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent assessment he has made of the requirement for humanitarian aid in Puntland; [68003]

(2) how much humanitarian funding his Department is giving to Somaliland as part of its response to the food supply situation in east Africa. [68004]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: British humanitarian support to Somalia has mostly been focussed on delivering lifesaving aid where acute needs are greatest, specifically in south and central areas of Somalia, where some 2.8 million people are in desperate need of help. However, we recognise that northern Somalia has not escaped the impact of the current drought and is also suffering, although to a lesser extent—acute malnutrition rates in many southern regions are almost double those in the north, and mortality rates are many times worse.

Last month I announced a £25 million package of support to help over 500,000 victims of the drought across Somalia, including treatment for thousands of acutely malnourished children, urgently needed food, clean water, shelter and health care. UK support to the UN's pooled funding mechanism, the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), is helping non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to access urgently required funds to respond to ongoing needs across the country, including in Puntland and Somaliland.

British aid in Somalia is being targeted to help those people most in need of emergency assistance. At present, and based on recent UN assessments, the majority of northern Somalia does not fall into this category of severity. However, my officials will continue to monitor the food security situation in the north of the country to ensure needs are being met across this area.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian funding his Department is giving to Puntland as part of its response to the food supply situation in east Africa. [68005]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government humanitarian funding reaching Puntland is approximately £4.5 million, reaching the affected pastoralist communities. The UK Government's humanitarian aid targets the most vulnerable people who are currently in southern Somalia, where more than 90% of our current response is going.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider the merits of increasing his Department's humanitarian aid to Puntland. [68006]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department's officials are in constant contact with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's unit which conducts regular food insecurity and nutritional surveys in all of Somalia. The most recent survey was conducted in July and the food insecurity situation was classified as serious to critical in Puntland. The next survey results are expected by the end of August and these will inform my Department's officials on the merits of increasing humanitarian aid to Puntland.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the requirement for humanitarian aid in Somaliland. [68007]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's unit which conducts regular nutritional surveys in all of Somalia indicated a serious food insecurity situation in Somaliland during the last survey in July but this had not yet moved to critical. The next survey results are expected at the end of August and my Department's officials will use these results to re-assess the humanitarian aid requirements for Somaliland.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider the merits of increasing his Department's humanitarian aid to Somaliland. [68009]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department's officials are in constant contact with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's unit which conducts regular food and nutritional surveys in all of Somalia. The most recent survey conducted in July indicated serious food insecurity in Somaliland. My Department's officials are closely following the surveys and will use the unit's results, expected by the end of August, to consider the merits of increasing the UK Government's humanitarian aid to Somaliland.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided (a) directly and (b) through international agencies in respect of the famine in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [69081]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Consecutive poor rains and failed harvests, coupled with conflict and widespread insecurity across Somalia, have left some 3.2 million people in immediate need of lifesaving assistance, many of them in the famine-affected areas of southern Somalia.

The British Government have been swift to respond to the needs of the Somali people, providing emergency support to over 500,000 men, women and children. British aid, delivered through trusted UN and charity organisations like UNICEF, Oxfam GB and Concern Worldwide, is helping to: treat over 60,000 acutely malnourished children; provide food for almost 20,000 people; provide clean drinking water for over 300,000 people and; provide access to basic health care for some 140,000 people.

I announced a package of £25 million of new assistance to Somalia during my visit to the region on 16 July, as well as £16 million of support for Somali refugees in Kenya and Ethiopia. This was in addition to £17 million of humanitarian aid the UK had already provided earlier in 2011. UK support is also helping Somalia indirectly through our contributions to the UN Central Emergency Respond Fund, UN agencies, the European Union and various UK NGOs.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and urge other countries to contribute to the humanitarian response immediately.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Government of Somalia and *(b)* authorities in Somaliland and Puntland on steps to facilitate international support in respect of the current famine. [69082]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I visited Mogadishu on 17 August, where I met Prime Minister Abdiweli, Ministers involved in the Transitional Federal Government's Drought Management Committee and the Deputy Mayor of Mogadishu. I pressed the Somali authorities to do everything possible to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. I emphasised the UK's continued leadership role in galvanising the international response and detailed the support we are providing through humanitarian partners on the ground: nutritional support for starving children, water, sanitation and health services.

Famine has not been declared in either Somaliland or Puntland, but the UK Government are in regular contact with the authorities in both regions and we continue to monitor the humanitarian situation throughout Somalia. Some of our funding to humanitarian partners working across Somalia is being used to support urgent needs in these regions.

South Sudan: International Trade

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to increase levels of *(a)* economic output from and *(b)* trade with South Sudan. [68273]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: UK aid will improve farmers' access to markets through the construction and maintenance of over 500 kms of feeder roads, as part of a joint programme with the World Bank, USAID and the EU. A trade facilitation programme will establish a customs service and lower the cost of cross-border trade. Further programmes are being developed to promote private sector development, including by addressing corruption and providing incentives to firms to create market opportunities for poorer people. The Department for International Development (DFID) is also helping the Government of South Sudan to improve economic management and investment decisions.

South Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what priorities his Department has set for the outcomes of aid delivered by his Department to South Sudan. [68568]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) four year Operational Plan for South Sudan was published on the DFID website

www.dfid.gov.uk

on 28 July 2011. The UK's aid programme in South Sudan will focus on enabling poor people, particularly girls and women, to benefit from more equitable and sustainable services; increased employment and livelihood opportunities—supported by private sector investment; greater security; more accountable and efficient government; and less corruption. DFID is aiming for extensive results including: 1 million people having enough food to eat; 240,000 more children completing primary school; 750,000 people to be treated for or prevented from getting malaria; 4 million people receiving life-saving healthcare and nutrition; 12 million textbooks printed and distributed to almost 2 million children; and increased private sector investment and trade by reducing cross border transport costs by 15%.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase access and protection for aid workers in South Sudan. [69456]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Humanitarian personnel across South Sudan work in a difficult security environment. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is playing a vital role in engaging the Government of South Sudan on issues of access and security. The UK Government work closely with the UN on these issues and also raise them bilaterally with the authorities, including during my visit in May 2011. The UK Government are providing financial support to the non-governmental organisation (NGO) RedR in order to train NGO staff on security. It is important that NGOs have full access and are adequately protected when going about their important work, and we urge the Government of South Sudan to ensure that this is the case.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of South Sudan on *(a)* incidences of violence against aid workers and *(b)* the protection of such workers in South Sudan. [69554]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Humanitarian personnel across South Sudan work in a difficult security environment. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is playing a vital role in engaging the Government of South Sudan on issues of access and security. The UK Government work closely with the UN on these issues and also raise them bilaterally with the authorities, including during my visit in May 2011. The British Government are providing financial support to the NGO RedR in order to train NGO staff on security. It is important that NGOs have full access and are adequately protected when going about their important work, and we urge the Government of South Sudan to ensure that this is the case.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Sri Lanka regarding the humanitarian situation in that country. [68868]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State for International Development has not had any recent discussions with the Sri Lankan Government. The British high commission in Colombo regularly discusses the humanitarian situation with the Sri Lankan Government and monitors progress on the ground, which has greatly improved since the end of the military conflict in May 2009. The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently providing £3 million of de-mining assistance to allow those displaced by the conflict to return to their home areas. The high commission also meets with other donors in country, including multilateral organisations to which the UK makes a contribution.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of apprenticeships available in each skill area in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [69795]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows apprenticeship starts by sector subject area for 2009/10, the latest academic year for which final data are available.

Estimates of the number of apprenticeships available are not available for 2011 and 2012. The apprenticeships programme is demand led. The Government do not plan apprenticeship places by level but provide funding and forecast the overall number of places that may be afforded. We rely on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand, taking advantage of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system.

For the 2011/12 academic year, our indicative forecast is to fund over 360,000 apprenticeship places. The sectors that these places fall within will be determined by the employers coming forward to make places available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by sector subject area, 2009/10

Sector subject area	*Number*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	5,690
Arts, Media and Publishing	440
Business, Administration and Law	76,590
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	25,210
Education and Training	860
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	37,860
Health, Public Services and Care	44,150
Information and Communication Technology	12,570
Languages, Literature and Culture	—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	14,690
Preparation for Life and Work	—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	61,620
Science and Mathematics	—
Unknown	—
Grand total	279,700

'—' Indicates a base value of less than five.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest ten except for the grand total which is rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people aged over 18 who *(a)* began and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship in (i) the London borough of Tower Hamlets and (ii) Bethnal Green and Bow constituency in each year since 2005-06. [68679]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts and framework achievements by learners aged 19 and over in Tower Hamlets local education authority and Bethnal Green and Bow parliamentary constituency for academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final year data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship framework starts and achievements in Tower Hamlets local education authority and Bethnal Green and Bow parliamentary constituency by learners aged 19 and over, 2005/06 to 2009/10

		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Tower Hamlets local education authority	Starts	90	110	250	350	460
	Achievements	50	40	90	140	270
Bethnal Green and Bow constituency	Starts	50	50	120	180	240
	Achievements	30	20	40	70	130

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. These figures are based on the geographic boundaries of parliamentary constituencies as of May 2010.
4. Age is calculated based on age at start of the programme.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Skills Funding

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the head of the Skills Funding Agency on possible changes to the monitoring of apprenticeships lasting 13 weeks or less. [69915]

Mr Hayes: End to end responsibility for apprenticeships, including delivery of the programme and accountability for ensuring high standards and value for money for public investment in apprenticeships, sits with the chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service rather than the chief executive of Skills Funding. As Minister responsible for apprenticeships, I meet with the chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service regularly to discuss these matters.

The length of apprenticeships is already monitored. Of the record number of apprenticeships starting between 1 August 2010 and 30 April 2011, only 3% of achievers had an actual length of stay lasting less than 13 weeks. The National Apprenticeship Service is scrutinising each of these programmes to satisfy itself that they meet the required quality standards and that an appropriate level of funding is paid to reflect the training needed and delivered.

Arms Exports

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the value of each contract the UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation has helped companies in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland to secure in each of the last five years. [68719]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is not held by the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation. Data collected from defence companies on the total value of new contracts signed for the sale of products and services overseas in the last five years, and for security companies the value of export business completed in each of the last four years, are shown in the table.

Information on security business is not available for the year 2006.

	Defence	*Security*	*£ billion Total*
2010	6	2	8
2009	7.2	1.6	8.8
2008	4.3	1.5	5.8
2007	9.6	1.3	10.9
2006	5.5	—	5.5

Exports: Syria

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many arms export licences have been granted for arms sales to Syria in each of the last five years; what arms were exported under each licence; who received the arms in Syria; and what their end-use was. [67846]

Mr Prisk: In the past five years, the Export Control Organisation has issued three licences for the export of military goods to Syria.

In October 2008, a Standard Individual Export Licence (SIEL) was issued for the export to UNICEF of seven pieces of body armour, 14 ceramic plates to be fitted to body armour and seven helmets, for the protection of their staff in conduct of their humanitarian work. These items have been exported and the SIEL is therefore exhausted.

In August 2008, a SIEL was issued for the export of sporting gun ammunition to a sporting organisation for training and competition. The SIEL was for 300,000 rounds of sporting ammunition (of the internationally recognised sporting calibre .22). Our records show that 60,000 rounds were exported in September 2008 and that the licence has since expired.

In January 2010, a SIEL was issued for the export of sporting gun ammunition to a sporting organisation for training and competition, including international competition. The SIEL was for 200,000 rounds of sporting ammunition (.22 calibre). The goods on this licence have not been shipped. The Government reviewed all licences for Syria in May 2011 after the EU arms embargo was imposed. This licence was revoked as the proposed export was no longer consistent with the Consolidated Criteria, Criteria 1 (UK's International commitments to enforce EU arms embargoes).

Business: Banks

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of information asymmetries between small and medium-sized enterprises and banks. [67483]

Mr Prisk: It is widely recognised (e.g. the 2004 Graham Review) that market failures exist in small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) debt markets, where information needed by lenders to make judgments on individual loan applications may be expensive, or difficult to obtain. Although advances in credit assessment techniques may have helped to overcome these difficulties, barriers resulting from a lack of information may still be faced by certain types of business, in particular those that lack an established track record.

This Department is aware that some businesses can encounter difficulties when accessing bank finance due to a lack of financial track record, or collateral. For instance, the SME Finance Monitor (July 2011) reported that, for SMEs whose borrowing requests were declined, the main reason given was lack of credit history or a poor credit history.

In order to help viable businesses lacking a track record, the Government have extended the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, which is targeted at such businesses and those businesses that lack security.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many business mentors are working in the Business Mentoring Scheme *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each parliamentary constituency. [67481]

Mr Prisk: Mentorsme.co.uk, Britain's first online mentoring gateway, was launched on 4 July and provides a single point of access for those seeking mentoring and those seeking to be mentors, covering the whole of the UK.

At launch, it included approximately 40 mentoring organisations, providing access to around 10,000 mentors. Since launch, a number of applications from other mentoring organisations who wish to be listed on the portal have been received and are currently being assessed. More organisations will be added in the coming months as they register interest, providing they meet certain standards. The site includes both national and regional organisations, including at least eight which cover the hon. Member's constituency. We do not currently have data to establish how many individual mentors are in each region or parliamentary constituency.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what Government funding *(a)* was and *(b)* is to be made available for business support in (i) Wirral, (ii) Merseyside, (iii) the north-west and (iv) England in (A) 2010-11, (B) 2011-12, (C) 2012-13, (D) 2013-14 and (E) 2014-15. [67992]

Mr Prisk: Government funding for business support in (i) Wirral, (ii) Merseyside, (iii) the north-west and (iv) England in (A) 2010-11, (B) 2011-12, (C) 2012-13, (D) 2013-14 and (E) 2014-15 is as follows:

Regional Growth Fund (RGF)

The Local Growth White Paper published on 28 October 2010 launched the £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) that will operate over three years from 2011 to 2014. This is a challenge fund that operates in England only and is not ring-fenced or pre-allocated in any way.

The first round of bidding for the fund closed on 21 January 2011. Announcements on the successful bids from that round were made in April, with £450 million being invested by the Government through the RGF, expected to leverage more than £2.5 billion of private sector investment. The second, main, round was launched on 12 April with a closing date of 1 July. We are very pleased with the response to this round and the team is currently processing details of the bids received. Details of both rounds can be found on the BIS website:

www.bis.gov.uk/rgf

Grant for Business Investment (GBI)

In 2010/11 the total Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE)/GBI actual expenditure in England was £48 million. Of this, £11 million was in the north-west. This figure includes two SFIE projects located in Merseyside (Getrag Ford and Pilkington) on which £2.06 million was paid.

Going forward, the budget figures for forecast expenditure in 2011/12 are £32 million, in 2012/13 and 2013/14 it is £23 million and in 2014/15 it is £19 million.

The forecast for individual projects in the north-west in 2011/12 is £8.5 million, in 2012/13 it is £6.2 million and in 2013/14 and 2014/15 it is £5.2 million. The expenditure relates to three projects, all in Merseyside.

Business Coaching for Growth

The Government are committed to creating the right long term environment to make it easier to start and grow a business. This includes a new Business Coaching for Growth (BCG) programme which will help up to 10,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) a year to overcome the barriers to high growth. This is a national service so it is not possible to provide a regional breakdown.

BCG will be built around two main themes:

> Coaching: the programme will provide coaches to work face to face with senior management teams to help them to develop and implement their strategies and develop the skills, expertise and techniques to overcome the barriers they face to growing.
>
> Connectivity: BCG will be highly networked and will connect high growth potential businesses to other forms of support such as business incubators and science parks. It will also fast track businesses to trusted sources of specialist advice.

The formal process to procure BCG began in April and has attracted considerable interest from the business community.

BIS has adopted the Competitive Dialogue procurement procedure which involves strong engagement and discussion with private sector bidders. BIS is confident that the market will deliver an innovative, flexible and cost-effective solution to delivering BCG across England. The full procurement process should be completed in the autumn and the service will be rolled out in early 2012.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is a loan guarantee scheme to facilitate additional bank lending to viable SMEs with insufficient or no security with which to secure a normal commercial loan.

Enterprise Loan Guarantee (EFG) loans to businesses in the Wirral, Merseyside, north-west and England for the financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12 were as follows:

	Number of loans offered	*Loan amount (£ million)*
Wirral		
FY 2010/11	21	2.19
FY 2011/12	2	0.02
Grand total	23	2.22
Merseyside		
FY 2010/11	96	11.03
FY 2011/12	20	1.78
Grand total	116	12.81
North West		
FY 2010/11	699	66.34
FY 2011/12	157	13.19
Grand total	856	79.52
England		
FY 2010/11	4494	422.23
FY 2011/12	1067	104.99
Grand total	5561	527.22

Regional Development Agencies/Venture Capital Loan Funds

Regional development agencies (RDAs) established a range of venture capital and loan funds (VCLFs) providing debt and equity funding to SMEs in their respective regions. These funds were established using money from the Single Programme and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In many regions, including the north-west, European funds were used to leverage private sector investment into the VCLF. Across England almost £0.5 billion (RDA funds, ERDF and private investment) has been committed to VCLFs investing in SMEs up to the end of 2015. Of this, £185 million has been committed to the North West Fund. It is expected that 40% of the North West Fund will be invested in Merseyside.

Apprenticeships

In addition the Government have made some £1,328 million available in the 2010-11 financial year to support apprenticeship training in England and we expect to spend over £1,400 million in the 2011 -12 financial year.

The apprenticeships programme is demand led. Government do not plan apprenticeship funding by region. The Government funding for apprenticeships is paid directly to the organisation that provides and supports the apprenticeship training. In most cases this will be a further education college or independent learning provider.

UK Trade and Investment

Direct Government funding via UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) for trade development in the north-west region was £2.5 million in 2010/11 and £2.9 million has been allocated for 2011/12. In addition, businesses in the north-west may benefit from UKTI's nationally funded trade development programmes.

Enterprise Zones

The 2011 Budget allocated £20 million (2012/13), £40 million (2013/14), £65 million (2014/15) and £80 million (2015/16) to fund delivery of enterprise zones.

The Government have put forward a range of measures to develop enterprise zones and make them attractive places to do business including:

A 100 per cent business rate discount worth up to £275,000 over a five year period (for businesses that move into an enterprise zone during the course of this Parliament).

All business rate growth generated by the zone for a period of at least 25 years will be kept by that area.

Local development orders are available to local authorities to establish a simplified planning regime.

Government support to ensure that super fast broadband is rolled out throughout the zones. This will be achieved through guaranteeing the most supportive planning environment and, if necessary, public funding.

In addition, the Government will work with individual local enterprise partnerships to consider:

The scope for introducing enhanced capital allowances to support zones in assisted areas where there is a strong focus on high value manufacturing;

The use of tax increment finance to support the long-term viability of the zone, in tandem with the Local Government Resource Review; and

UKTI support on inward investment and trade opportunities.

The first 11 local enterprise partnerships to host enterprise zones announced at Budget were: Greater Birmingham and Solihull; Leeds City Region; Sheffield City Region; Liverpool City Region; Greater Manchester; West of England; Tees Valley; North East; Black Country; Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and London.

The open competition to identify a further 10 enterprise zones closed on 30 June with 30 bids received. All of the bids were assessed against their ability to deliver growth and jobs, their value for money and their plans for implementation.

Following careful consideration the following local enterprise partnerships were selected to be granted an enterprise zone: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough, The Marches, New Anglia, South East Midlands, South East (formerly East Sussex, Kent etc), Oxfordshire, Hull and the Humber, Liverpool City Region, Leicester and Leicestershire, and Solent.

High Street Support Scheme: Support for small or medium-sized enterprises

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on 18 August a £20 million High Street Support Scheme, jointly funded by BIS, to give grants to local firms affected by the riots for out-of-pocket expenses. The scheme is being administered through local authorities.

Copyright

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on fair use in copyright law. [69671]

Mr Davey: The Hargreaves review of intellectual property and growth was charged in its terms of reference with a number of aims, including investigating what are the benefits of "fair use" exceptions to copyright and how these might be achieved in the UK. The review concluded that a broad legal mechanism similar to US fair use would not be practical within the EU framework, but that there is a need for more flexibility in order to meet new opportunities. Therefore the review recommended that the UK should make more use of the freedoms available within the EU framework, including permitting consumers to make private copies of copyright works in order to use them within fair and reasonable limits.

The Government have accepted the conclusions and recommendations of the review. The Government have no intention of prejudicing the fundamental role of copyright in providing appropriate incentives for the creation of valuable works, on which much value for the UK depends. We nonetheless believe the review is right to identify activities that copyright currently over-regulates unnecessarily to the detriment of the UK, and we will propose a substantial opening up of the UK's copyright exceptions regime, as set out in our response to the review. The Government will also press at EU level for a wider set of exceptions to secure further flexibilities without prejudicing appropriate incentives for creation of works.

Departmental Responsibilities

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister for Universities and Science first met representatives of *(a)* LCU Business School, *(b)* Tribal Education, *(c)* Edison Education, *(d)* Career Education, *(e)* BPP/Apollo, *(f)* Laurette, *(g)* Bridgepoint and *(h)* the Education Centre of Excellence following his appointment; and whether subsequent meetings have taken place. [68134]

Mr Willetts: I have not met with representatives of LCU Business School, nor with representatives of Tribal Education, Edison Education, Career Education, Bridgepoint and the Education Centre of Excellence. I met with representatives of BPP as a part of a wider meeting on 12 July 2010. I met with representatives of Laureate on 15 September 2010 and on 1 February 2011. I met with representatives of Apollo and BPP on 10 May 2011.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is also available at:

http://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

English Language: Education

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 59-60WS, on English for speakers of other languages, what resource allocation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government are to make to facilitate education for those (i) women and (ii) others identified as requiring additional support in order to ensure their competence in the English language; and if he will make a statement. [69129]

Mr Hayes: As part of the Government agenda to support unemployed people into work we will fully fund units and full qualifications for people in receipt of jobseekers' allowance and employment support allowance (in the Work Related Activity Group) to help them enter and stay in work. FE colleges and training organisations also have local discretion to provide fully subsidised courses for people on a wider range of benefits where the training is to help them enter employment.

The Government will continue to fund 50% of the cost of English for speakers of other languages training for eligible people who are settled here, with individuals expected to meet the remainder of the costs. We will no longer fund ESOL in the workplace. This contributes to our broader objective of establishing a fairer balance between the investment made in skills by the Government, the employer and the learner.

This Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government are working in partnership to develop new forms of support for individuals who need language skills to assist with integration and community cohesion. I will announce further details in due course.

Export Controls: Iran

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there is a legal requirement for an exporter to consult his Department before exporting goods to Iran. [67507]

Mr Prisk: If the goods or technology to be exported are specified on a UK or EU control list, or if the exporter has been informed that non-listed items may be intended for a weapons of mass destruction (WMD)-related end-use or a military end-use in an embargoed destination (such as Iran), the items can only be exported under a valid licence issued by the Export Control Organisation (ECO). If the exporter is aware that non-listed items may be intended for a WMD-related end-use or a military end-use in an embargoed destination, they must notify the ECO before exporting the items and the ECO will determine whether or not an export licence is required. If the exporter has grounds for suspecting a WMD-related end-use, they must not export the items unless they have made all reasonable inquiries as to their actual end-use and satisfied themselves that they will not be used for WMD-related purposes. A breach of any of the above requirements is a criminal offence. The Government offer an advice service regarding whether an export requires a licence or not and strongly advise that any exporter who is unsure on this point should use this service.

Export Credits Guarantee

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made by his Department's cross-departmental working group established to implement the Government's decision that the Export Credits Guarantee Department and UK Trade & Investment should become champions for British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world. [66443]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) are keeping officials across departments informed of their progress in supporting British companies that develop and export green technologies. As part of the low carbon priority published in its new strategy, 'Britain Open for Business', UKTI is delivering a green export campaign to help UK businesses through trade missions, exhibitions, keynote speeches, overseas media and press activity. ECGD is actively reaching out to exporters of renewable energy equipment and services so that they are aware of the products available from ECGD to provide them with credit protection and facilitate the provision of finance.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 761W, on higher education: admissions, how many and what proportion of students *(a)* were from socio-economic groups four to seven, *(b)* were aged 25 or older, *(c)* were aged 35 or older, *(d)* were women, *(e)* studied full-time, *(f)* lived away from home during their education, *(g)* studied science, technology, engineering or mathematics while at university, *(h)* studied languages and *(i)* studied a humanities subject; and if he will make a statement. [69060]

Mr Willetts: The numbers and proportions of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions who were aged 25 or older, were 35 or older, were women, studied full-time, studied science, technology, engineering or mathematics, studied languages and studied a humanities subject are shown for the 2009/10 academic year in table 1.

Table 1: UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] by age, gender, mode of study and subject area, UK higher education institutions, academic year 2009/10

	Number	*Percentage of total*
Total entrants	750,895	—
Of which:		
Aged 25 or older	311,600	41.5
Aged 35 or older	184,680	24.6
Female	448,315	59.7
Studied full-time	436,125	58.1
Studied a STEM[2] subject	307,290	40.9
Studied Languages	44,205	5.9
Studied a Humanitiest[3] subject	29,885	4.0

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Covers the following subject areas: Medicine and dentistry, Subjects allied to medicine, Biological sciences, Veterinary science, Agriculture and related subjects, Physical sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering and technology and Architecture building and planning.

[3] Covers Historical and philosophical studies.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.
2. Percentages are based on unrounded figures and are given to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

The numbers and proportions of UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants who lived away from home during term time, and those who were from socio-economic groups four to seven are shown for the 2009/10 academic year in table 2. Socio-economic and term-time accommodation information is not available for part-time entrants.

Table 2: UK-domiciled full-time undergraduate entrants by term-time accommodation and socio-economic group[1], UK higher education institutions, academic year 2009/10

	Number	*per cent*
Entrants with known term-time accommodation information	401,095	—
Of which:		
lived away from home[2]	288,755	72.0
Young entrants with known socio-economic information	252,930	—
Of which:		
from socio-economic groups four to seven[3]	77,920	30.8
Mature entrants with known socio-economic information	53,040	—
Of which:		
from socio-economic groups four to seven[3]	25,575	48.2

[1] Information on socio-economic class is gathered on a different basis for young (aged under 21) and mature (aged 21 and over) entrants and is shown separately in the table. Socio-economic class is derived from information on occupation: for entrants aged under 21 this is based on the occupation of their parent, and for those aged 21 and over it is based on their own occupation.

[2] Covers entrants whose term-time accommodation address was recorded as institution maintained property, own residence, other rented accommodation, and private sector halls.

[3] Covers the socio-economic groups: Small employers & own account workers, Lower supervisory & technical occupations, Semi-routine occupations and Routine occupations.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five..
2. Percentages are based on unrounded figures and are given to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect on youth unemployment of the change in higher education fee arrangements in 2012. [67405]

Mr Willetts: The change in the fee arrangements enables the Government to continue to finance a high number of places in higher education for students in 2012, and therefore there is expected to be no adverse impact on youth unemployment as a consequence of the change.

Insolvency

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to amend the insolvency rules to introduce a clear definition of administration expenses. [70286]

Mr Davey: The Government are listening to the views of interested stakeholders but have not yet made a decision as to what legislative change might be required. Representative bodies have been invited to provide evidence as to the practical impacts being felt as a result of a recent High Court decision in this area.

International Subscriptions: Research Council

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what international subscriptions for use of equipment or facilities were funded by the research councils in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what such subscriptions will be funded in 2011-12. [69801]

Mr Willetts: The following international subscriptions for use of equipment or facilities were all funded by the research councils in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and will be funded in 2011-12, unless stated otherwise.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council:

The Joint European Torus (JET) which investigates the potential of fusion power (through a grant to the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy).

The Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE), an initiative to allow researchers to access a world-class suite of supercomputers across Europe via a central peer review system.

Medical Research Council:

European Molecular Biology Laboratory

Natural Environment Research Council:

International Ocean Drilling Programme

European Space Agency (ESA)

European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association (EISCAT)

ESA has transferred to the UK Space Agency with effect from 1 April 2011. EISCAT transferred to NERC (from STFC) with effect from 1 January 2010.

Science and Technology Facilities Council:

European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO)

Institut Laue-Langevin

European Synchrotron Radiation Facility

The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)

European Space Agency (2009-10 and 2010-11 only). The UK Space Agency assumed responsibility for ESA for 2011-12.

Manufacturing

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has contributed funding to the Made by Britain manufacturing campaign run by the Associate Parliamentary Manufacturing Group. [69710]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has not contributed funding to this initiative.

Newcastle College: Mergers

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what legal advice he has received on the effects of a merger between Newcastle and Northumberland colleges on the promotion of competition in the further education sector in the north-east. [69590]

Mr Hayes: Discussions on the proposed merger are still taking place between the Skills Funding Agency and Newcastle and Northumberland colleges. I will consider what additional information and advice I may need at the point I receive a recommendation from the chief executive of Skills Funding on the final merger proposal.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Office of Fair Trading on the potential effects of a merger between Newcastle and Northumberland Colleges on the promotion of competition in the further education sector in the north-east. [69591]

Mr Hayes: Discussions on the proposed merger are still taking place between the Skills Funding Agency and Newcastle and Northumberland Colleges. I will consider what additional information and advice I may need at the point I receive a recommendation from the chief executive of Skills Funding on the final merger proposal.

Nuclear Power

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department provided for research into nuclear energy in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to provide in 2011-12. [69799]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills does not directly provide funding for research into nuclear energy. The Department provides funding to the research councils and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) which then provide a range of support.

The Research Councils UK (RCUK) energy programme will invest £540 million in energy related research between 2011-15, which includes research and training related to nuclear fission energy.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) spent £6.4 million on nuclear fission in 2009-10 and £6.5 million in 2010-11. It is not possible to give precise figures for future spend on nuclear fission. Priorities for the whole RCUK Energy Programme will be regularly reviewed with advice from the programme's Scientific Advisory Council. In addition the EPSRC spends £25 million per year on nuclear fusion energy research, primarily through the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy.

The Economic and Social Research Council spent approximately £335,000 on nuclear energy related research in 2009-10 and £4,000 in 2010-11. It is not possible to give precise figures for future spend on nuclear energy. Future spend will be determined by the proposals for funding received.

In addition to the funding within its nuclear physics programme, which examines how atomic nuclei behave and the origin of elements, the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) provided £2 million in 2009-10, £1.5 million in 2010-11 and £0.5 million in 2011-12 for the HiPER project. HiPER is a proposed European High Power Laser Energy Research facility dedicated to demonstrating the feasibility of laser driven fusion as a future energy source. Between 2009 and 2011 STFC provided £424,000 to a pilot Knowledge Exchange grant for the project 'Using Thorium as fuel in conventional Reactors'.

The Technology Strategy Board have provided approximately £200,000 in 2010-11 for Nuclear R&D feasibility studies under its £2 million competition to develop innovation in the supply chain with the remainder of this funding expected to be drawn down in 2011-12. Furthermore, some of the funding, which is currently being finalised, for the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre will support the work of the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre. The Technology Strategy Board also plans a further £10 million Collaborative R&D competition in 2012.

Ordnance Survey: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by Ordnance Survey using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [68890]

Mr Davey: This is an operational matter for the Ordnance Survey. I have asked Vanessa Lawrence CB, Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey to write to my hon. Friend. A copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Letter from Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB, dated 2 September 2011:

As Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey, I have been asked to reply to your question on transactions undertaken by Ordnance Survey using the Government Procurement Card in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

An electronic copy of this information has been placed in the House of Commons Library. For each transaction this includes the date of purchase, amount and supplier. Information on the "level 3 or enhanced transaction entry" is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost; however, the broad category of spend under which each transaction has been allocated is included.

Use of the Government Procurement Card reduces administrative costs and helps to ensure payments to suppliers are made promptly. The GPC card system provides the most efficient way for Ordnance Survey to make payment for low value items only, I hope this information is helpful to you.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact on small and medium-sized enterprises of not being able to bid directly to the Regional Growth Fund. [69912]

Mr Prisk: No assessment has been made as small and medium-sized enterprises can bid directly to the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) either on their own or they may come together to submit a package of projects which make a coherent whole but which individually would not meet the minimum bidding threshold of £1 million. Furthermore, four out of the 50 successful bids to Round 1 were conditionally allocated funding for small and medium enterprise support schemes. RGF funding for these four schemes totals £175 million, which was almost 40% of all the funds allocated (£450 million) in Round 1.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the demand for funding from a third round of the Regional Growth Fund following the most recent growth forecast by the Office of Budget Responsibility. [69913]

Mr Prisk: No formal assessment of demand for funding from a third round of the Regional Growth Fund has been made.

Small Businesses: Civil Disorder

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to prioritise small and medium-sized businesses which have been adversely affected by the August 2011 public disorders. [69916]

Mr Prisk: The Government have already introduced a number of measures to support businesses affected by the recent public disorder between 6 and 11 August.

The Government are giving £20 million to local authorities, under the High Street Support Scheme, to help affected small and medium-sized businesses and commercial districts get back on their feet following the recent disorder.

This funding will be administered by local authorities and is being provided to:

help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) get back on their feet more quickly, including with cash flow problems, while they wait for insurance or other claims to be met;

help SMEs with non- refundable exceptional business expenses;

help rebuild business confidence in the area affected; and

help fund the full costs to local authorities of providing Business Rate Hardship Relief.

SMEs who have suffered loss or damage to property as a result of the disturbance can seek compensation from their police authority under the Riot Damages Act (1886). The Home Secretary has extended the period to claim to 42 days.

The Government have also ensured that affected businesses have access to practical advice, information and support and this is available on:

www.BusinessLink.gov.uk

These measures are set out in the written ministerial statement on Public Disorder—Support for Business laid before the House of Commons on 11 August 2011, *Official Report,* columns 119-21WS.

Students: Assessments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students affected by examination board errors were not accepted by their first choice of university in August 2011. [70300]

Mr Willetts: Higher education institutions have until 14 September to process decisions on the conditional choices held by applicants. The information requested about university destinations is therefore not currently available.

UCAS was in close contact with Ofqual in the run-up to A level results day and the regulators (Ofqual in England, CCEA in Northern Ireland and DfES in

Wales) oversaw the actions that each awarding organisation took in relation to the examination paper errors. On 5 August, Ofqual issued a statement confirming that they was satisfied that everything that could be done had been done to make sure that, as far as possible, candidates had not been unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged and that there was a level playing field.

In addition, it should be borne in mind that there may be many reasons why individuals have been not accepted by their first choice university, and it should not be assumed that there is a direct link between an applicant sitting a paper with an error and them failing to secure a place at their firm choice.

Students: Illnesses

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher education students suspended their studies due to illness or incapacity in each of the last five years. [70580]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects information on the number of students who suspend their studies, but the reason for suspension is not recorded. Figures are given for all students who suspended their studies in the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10.

Unemployment: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess trends in underemployment in Scotland. [69620]

Mr Hayes: Skills funding and provision are a devolved activity and I would advise the hon. Member to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Michael Russell MSP) at the Scottish Parliament.

EDUCATION

Academies: Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requirement there is upon academies to pay staff earning less than £21,000 a year the £250 uplift in accordance with Government policy on the public sector pay freeze; how many such academy staff have not received the uplift; which academies have not paid the uplift to such staff; and what monitoring his Department has put in place on the payment of uplifts to academy staff. [68190]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* Academies are publicly funded independent schools and are not covered by public sector pay arrangements. Governing bodies for academies are free to set the pay and conditions that are appropriate for their school and are able to make their own decisions on how to respond to the public sector pay freeze.

The Department collects details on the salaries of staff in maintained schools and academies annually, through the School Workforce Census, to aid strategic planning for the school work force. The census does not collect information in the detail necessary to identify whether academies are imposing a pay freeze or paying support staff earning less than £21,000 a £250 pay increase.

Apprentices

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 year olds are undertaking an apprenticeship. [64210]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* The following table shows the number and percentage of apprenticeship starts in England by age in 2009/10, the latest year for which we have full year data.

Apprenticeship programme starts by age, 2009/10 and population estimates for 2010

	Apprenticeship starts	*Percentage of all apprenticeship starts*	*2010 England population*	*Percentage of apprenticeship starts in 2010 England population*
16	29,380	10.5	633,000	5
17	40,780	14.6	646,000	6
16-18	116,800	41.8	1,953,700	6
Total	279,700	100.0	—	—

Notes:

1. Apprenticeship figures are rounded to the nearest 10, apart from the total which is rounded to the nearest 100. England population figures (ONS population estimates, 2010) are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.
3. Apprenticeship age is calculated based on age at start of the programme.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record and ONS population estimates, 2010.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprentices: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 16 to 18 years who *(a)* began and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship in (i) the London borough of Tower Hamlets and (ii) Bethnal Green and Bow constituency in each year since 2005-06. [68678]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts and framework achievements by 16 to 18-year-old learners in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and Tower Hamlets local education authority for academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

Apprenticeship framework starts and achievements in Tower Hamlets local education authority and Bethnal Green and Bow parliamentary constituency by 16 to 18-year-olds, 2005/06 to 2009/10

		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Tower Hamlets local education authority	Starts	280	230	210	250	320
	Achievements	120	100	100	120	140
Bethnal Green and Bow constituency	Starts	130	110	80	130	140
	Achievements	60	40	40	60	70

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. These figures are based on the geographic boundaries of parliamentary constituencies as of May 2010.
4. Age is calculated based on age at start of the programme.
5. 16 to 18-year-old learners include a small number of learners who are aged under 16.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Discretionary Grants: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department expects to inform schools and further education colleges in *(a)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(b)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency of their allocation of discretionary learner support. [68677]

Mr Gibb: The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) notified schools, colleges and training providers of their 2011/12 funding allocation for the new 16 to 19 Bursary Fund on 17 June 2011.

Drugs: Misuse

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children and young people are prescribed methadone under National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse regimes; and what procedures are in place to assist such people in ending drug use. [69645]

Sarah Teather: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects information on the number of young people in specialist substance misuse services in England. In 2009-10, there were 480 young people under 18 in treatment who had opiates as their main problem drug and, of these, 294 received pharmacological interventions. NDTMS does not distinguish between opiate substitute drugs (such as methadone or buprenorphine), other prescribed drugs (such as Ritalin for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), or what they are prescribed for (in this context it could include prescribing for detoxification, stabilisation and symptomatic relief of substance misuse). Information on the doses prescribed is not recorded within NDTMS nor held centrally.

Young people's substance misuse is markedly different to that of adults. Young people tend to have shorter histories of substance use and have used lower levels of drugs for shorter periods. They are therefore much less likely to be physically dependent. 2% of young people in treatment in 2009-10 had heroin or crack cocaine as their primary problem substance.

Substitute prescribing for under-18s is therefore rare, and it is expected that if young people are receiving substitute prescribing, it should normally be as part of a reduction or detoxification programme. Most substance misuse interventions for young people focus on psychosocial counselling-based therapies aimed at achieving abstinence.

This is supported by NDTMS figures, which show that of the 294 young people with opiate problems receiving pharmacological interventions in 2009/10, 78 were continuously receiving these interventions a year later. This suggests that of the total 23,528 young people receiving interventions for substance misuse, 0.3% were prescribed methadone or other substitute opioids on a maintenance basis.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate has been made of the average cost per week of a drug addiction care plan for a young person in a care home or the secure estate. [69648]

Sarah Teather: Information on costs specifically relating to a drug addiction care plan is not held centrally.

The full average cost of care in a local authority children's home is £2,881 per resident week, including external services.

In 2009-10, the full average annual cost of a placement in the secure estate was £59,000 for a young offender institute, £163,000 for a secure training centre and £219,000 for a secure children's home.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what qualifications are required of those who work on delivery of drug addiction treatment to young people in the secure estate and care homes. [69652]

Sarah Teather: Expectations for staff competencies and staff development in the secure estate are set out in the national specification for substance misuse:

http://yjbpublications.justice.gov.uk/Scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=443&eP

For children's homes the National Minimum Standards set out the qualifications and staffing arrangement required. These are available via the following link:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrdering Download/NMS%20Children's%20Homes.pdf

Standards 17 and 18 specify the qualifications and training for those working in children's homes and standard 14 specifies the minimum qualifications for managing the administration of a children's home.

Specialist substance misuse staff may also be working in conjunction with residential staff where required.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what residential rehabilitation facilities are available to those under 18 years of age with substance addictions. [69654]

Sarah Teather: Young people with very complex needs, including substance misuse, who require a residential placement can be supported in a range of settings including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services or, for looked after children, a children's home or intensive fostering placement. However, such placements will be made after a full assessment of the child's needs have been carried out, rather than an assessment of their drug and alcohol use alone.

Some adult residential rehabilitation facilities also accept young people aged 17 where a placement is deemed suitable.

Young people's drug and alcohol related needs differ considerably from those of adults. 2% of young people in treatment in 2009-10 had heroin or crack cocaine as their primary problem substance, with the vast majority (91%) accessing services due to cannabis or alcohol misuse.

Young people have, typically, been misusing drugs or alcohol for a much shorter period of time and very few have developed a dependency to the point that residential rehabilitation facilities, such as those used for adult dependency, are required.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what types of drug addiction treatment are offered to young people in care homes and the secure estate; [69655]

(2) what type of care plan is provided for young people with a drug addiction in the secure estate and care homes; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of such plans. [69650]

Sarah Teather: Looked-after children, including those in children's homes or in intensive fostering placements, who are misusing drugs or alcohol should have access to the full range of support services provided by the local young people's substance misuse service. These include psychosocial interventions (such as counselling), family support and pharmacological interventions for those few young people who need them. These should be provided on an "in-reach" basis to the children's home where appropriate.

For young people with very complex needs, their care plans should consider the full range of their needs and set clear objectives for the end of their drug and alcohol treatment. Local commissioners will need to consider the full range of needs carefully for looked-after children before making an appropriate residential placement.

All young people entering custody are screened for substance misuse and those with identified needs should have a care plan in place that considers the full range of their substance misuse and associated needs, as well as their resettlement back into the community.

The national specification for substance misuse sets out the guidelines for young people in the secure estate and the support that should be available:

http://yjbpublications.justice.gov.uk/Scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=443&eP

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne, *(b)* Northumberland and *(c)* North Tyneside constituency were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in the academic year 2010-11; and how many students in each area he estimates will receive 16 to 19 bursaries in 2011-12. [69589]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for North Tyneside with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 16 August 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ69589 that asks;

"How many students in (a) Newcastle upon Tyne, (b) Northumberland and (c) North Tyneside constituency were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in academic year 2010-11; and how many students in each area he estimates will receive 16 to 19 bursaries in 2011-2012."

As at the 31 July 2011 the number of young people who had received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was as follows:

a. Newcastle upon Tyne: 3,618;

b. Northumberland: 3,596;

c. North Tyneside: 2,589.

In each case, figures refer to the local authority area. Information is not available at levels below local authority such as Parliamentary constituencies. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year concerned.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments, broken down by local authority, during 2010/11 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Further information on take up for 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 can also be found on that website.

It is not possible to say how many young people will receive 16-19 bursaries in the 2011/12 academic year. Schools, colleges, Academies and training providers will be able to determine their own criteria for eligibility for discretionary bursaries, and for deciding the level of awards. Therefore the YPLA does not hold data about the number of young people that are expected to benefit from the bursary scheme in each local authority area. We expect that in many cases providers will want to agree a consistent approach across an area, taking account of the needs and circumstances of young people locally.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made in its investigation into the effects of changes to education maintenance allowance in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. [68709]

Mr Gibb: Schools, colleges and training providers in Tower Hamlets will receive £695,860 in 2011/12 under the arrangements for the new 16 to 19 Bursary Fund. In addition, all young people in Tower Hamlets who first applied successfully for EMA in 2009/10, and the majority of those who first did so in 2010/11, will continue to receive weekly payments via the nationally administered transitional arrangements in 2011/12.

As the new arrangements take effect we will be monitoring participation data closely, including those relating to London boroughs. We also expect to undertake a formal evaluation of the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund, which will allow us to consider its impact in more detail. We have at present no evidence that the introduction of the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund has had an impact on participation in education and training post-16 in Tower Hamlets.

Music: Education

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of peripatetic music lessons per student for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary age pupils in (i) England, (ii) the west midlands and (iii) Dudley borough for the school year 2011-12; [69609]

(2) what the cost was of peripatetic music lessons per student for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary age pupils in (i) England, (ii) the west midlands and (iii) Dudley borough in each of the last five years. [69610]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities are responsible for arranging the provision of music instrument lessons and for setting the charges for these lessons, which historically have often been paid for by parents. Information on the cost of peripatetic music lessons is not collected by or held centrally by the Department for Education, but the total number of children in England taking music lessons in 2010 was just over 1.1 million at a cost of £219 million.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to encourage the uptake of music education in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [69611]

Mr Gibb: We want every child to learn a musical instrument and to sing. We are committed to significant public expenditure in providing music services because we are determined that every child will have access to a quality music education, including those from families that cannot afford to pay for private lessons. We have protected money to the front line, and we shall be setting out our detailed proposals, later this year, in a national plan for music education. This will include our proposals for encouraging the uptake of good quality music education in state funded schools.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from representatives of *(a)* parents, *(b)* teaching unions, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* head teachers regarding the effects on music education of changes in the level of spending on schools. [69612]

Mr Gibb: In addition to the 900 responses to the call for evidence for Mr Darren Henley's review of music education in 2010, the Department for Education received between January and July this year almost 400 items of correspondence from people concerned about music education. It would be a disproportionate cost to the Department to break these down by type of correspondent.

In response to Mr Henley's review of music education, the Government made clear their commitment to ensuring every child experiences a sound music education with opportunities to learn to play a musical instrument and to sing. In addition to announcing a funding settlement for music education of £82.5 million for 2011-12, the Government pledged to eliminate historical discrepancies in funding. Moving to a more transparent funding formula has resulted in some local authorities receiving an increase in funding, while we have guaranteed that no local authority would lose more than 10% of its funding compared to 2010-11. The majority of the funding for 2011-12 will go to the front line to deliver music education.

Schools: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much central Government resource funding was allocated to schools in York in each year since 1996-97; and how much he plans to allocate in each year of the comprehensive spending review period in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms (i) in total and (ii) per pupil. [65596]

Mr Gibb: The per pupil and total revenue funding figures, from the Department to local authorities, for pupils aged three to 19 for York for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are as follows.

These figures are in cash terms:

Local authority total revenue funding (cash)

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
York (£ per pupil)	2,286	2,409	2,574	2,827	2,994	3,160	3,325	3,545	3,813
York (£ million total)	54.864	58.637	63.343	71.074	76.304	80.298	84.259	88.958	94.345

These figures are in real terms:

Local authority total revenue funding (real)

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
York (£ per pupil)	3,131	3,230	3,385	3,670	3,801	3,887	3,978	4,127	4,360

Local authority total revenue funding (real)

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
York (£ million total)	75.131	78.638	83.311	92.268	96.890	98.781	100.809	103.552	107.866

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2010-11 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 29 June 2011.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and YPLA.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfE Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an authority, related funding no longer appears in the series.
5. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
6. Rounding: Total figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million, per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

The total revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions), whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for the 2006-07 DSG, the Department has isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The total and per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 to 2010-11 for York are provided in the following table. The figures shown are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in cash terms:

Local authority total revenue funding (DSG + grants cash)

	2005-06 (Baseline)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
York (£ per pupil)	3,730	3,900	4,160	4,380	4,580	4,790
York (£ million total)	92.229	95.594	100.277	104.299	108.066	114.338

These figures are in real terms:

Local authority total revenue funding (DSG + grants real)

	2005-06 (Baseline)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
York (£ per pupil)	4,260	4,320	4,470	4,580	4,720	4,780
York (£ million total)	105.447	105.744	107.835	109.141	111.271	114.235

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2010-11 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 29 June 2011.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Special Educational Needs

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what role local authorities will have in co-ordinating specialist support for pupils with special educational needs between schools, health services and other services. [69714]

Sarah Teather: The special educational needs (SEN) and disability Green Paper, "Support and aspiration", set out a strong strategic role for local authorities in England acting as the champions of vulnerable children, including those with SEN, and their families. The three core features of this role will be: working with local partners, such as Health and Wellbeing Boards, to plan strategically for services to meet the needs of local communities; commissioning high quality provision for disabled children and those with SEN; and enabling families to make informed choices and exercise greater control over services, for example, by setting out a local offer of provision for these children.

For individual children who require specialist support, local authorities will be an important agency, working with the voluntary sector and others, in arranging a single assessment process, drawing up Education, Health and Care Plans and agreeing on responsibility among the agencies involved for making the provision set out on the plan.

The Department is considering responses to the Green Paper and the Government will be publishing their plans for the future of SEN and disability provision in England by the end of the year.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that implementation of the proposal in his Department's special educational needs Green Paper to remove the bias toward inclusions of pupils with special educational needs does not prevent such pupils from accessing mainstream education. [69716]

Sarah Teather: The proposals set out in the special educational needs and disability Green Paper, "Support and aspiration", will not lead to any lessening of parents', rights. In the move from SEN statements to Education, Health and Care Plans parents will retain the right to request a mainstream education for their children if that is what they want and local authorities will still be under a conditional duty to send those children to mainstream schools and those schools will be under a duty, or obligation in the case of academies, to admit the child.

Except in prescribed circumstances, children with SEN but without statements must be educated in mainstream schools and this will continue to be the case following introduction of the new plans.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the evaluation of special educational needs personal budget pilots will consider the role of local authorities in developing a market from which parents can choose an appropriate range of services. [69719]

Sarah Teather: The Green Paper "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability" (SEND) (March 2011) outlined proposals to improve the current support system for families, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in England.

We are commissioning a series of SEND pathfinders to test out a range of new and innovative approaches to improve services, including the use of special educational needs personal budgets. I can confirm that the national evaluation study, commissioned to underpin the SEND pathfinder programme, will consider the local authority role in developing markets to support special educational needs personal budgets.

Special Educational Needs: Autism

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking in response to the conclusions and recommendations relating to autism in the National Autistic Society's report on special educational needs entitled "Great Expectations". [69715]

Sarah Teather: The National Autistic Society's report "Great Expectations" was published in response to the special educational needs and disability Green Paper and showed that there was welcome support from parents for important proposals in the Green Paper.

Recommendations in the society's report, such as the call for schools to have access to autism specialists, are addressed by proposals in the Green Paper, such as those for outstanding special schools, including autism specialist schools, to become Teaching Schools, developing their own staff alongside staff in schools throughout their network and sharing their expertise.

"Great Expectations" is being considered alongside other responses to the Green Paper and the Government will be setting out their plans for special educational needs and disability provision in England by the end of the year.

Vocational Guidance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the outcome was of the careers summit which took place in his Department on 15 July 2011; and if he will make a statement. [68014]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* The outcomes of the careers summit on 15 July 2011 have been published on the Local Government Association's Communities of Practice website, available via

www.communities.idea.gov.uk

TRANSPORT

Agility Trains

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates he has met representatives of Agility Trains since May 2010. [61258]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has met representatives of Agility Trains, a consortium of Hitachi Rail Europe and John Laing Investments, four times since May 2010. Details of the Secretary of State's diary commitments are published quarterly on the DfT website.

Biofuels

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many companies have *(a)* received and *(b)* applications pending for funding under the EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan for the development of biofuels from (i) waste, (ii) residues, (iii) non-food cellulosic feedstocks and (iv) lignocellulosic feedstocks. [69556]

Norman Baker: The Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) is the European Union's vision for accelerating the development and deployment of cost-effective low-carbon technologies. The SET Plan is not a funding body but rather the umbrella title for research and demonstration activities. Funding for activities promoted under the SET Plan may be provided from any of a number of sources, including the European Union's Framework Programme 7, individual European member states and private industry. Many of these sources have an interest in research and demonstration activity that predates the SET Plan.

In the last three years Framework Programme 7 has awarded support to 11 projects involving UK organisations for biofuel research and development. Two further bids are currently being assessed. This has provided at least

7 million euros of support to UK institutions. However, it is likely that not all of this work is directly related to the SET Plan initiative as Framework Programme 7 has a wider scope. The Department for Transport does not provide any direct funding for SET Plan activities and does not have a role in the funding decisions of other bodies that may fund this work.

Cycling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the involvement of employers in the promotion of cycling as a means of transport to work; how many meetings he has had with employer organisations on promoting cycling in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [68446]

Norman Baker: It is good that many employers help their staff to cycle to and from work.

We see encouraging cycling and walking, along with improving public transport, as key to cutting carbon emissions and enhancing the quality of our urban areas. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund makes £560 million available over the period 2011-2015 to support growth and cut carbon through transport initiatives. Many of the bids to the fund have involved partnership arrangements with local employers, which we view positively.

Earlier this year I met with Business for Life and encouraged it to sign up to the Cycle to Work Guarantee, which forms part of the Department for Health-led Public Health Responsibility Deal.

The Department also funds the National Business Travel Network (NBTN). NBTN launched a DfT part funded "ways2work" tool kit in November 2010 to help people and businesses work more efficiently. The tool kit includes a section on encouraging cycling to work.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of people taking part in the Cycle to Work scheme. [68832]

Norman Baker: There are no precise figures for the number of people taking up Cycle to Work schemes as the tax allowance is covered by an exemption meaning employers do not have to make an annual tax return regarding the benefit.

The Cycle to Work Alliance, made up of the four largest Cycle to Work scheme administrators (Cycle Scheme, Halfords, Evans and Cycle Solutions), reports helping over 400,000 people take advantage of the scheme.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68750]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport received 1,462 letters from hon. Members in June 2011.

Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual value is of his Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held. [66589]

Norman Baker: The annual value of my Department's current contracts in each sector in which contracts are held is shown in the following table. The category structure is based on the PSPES (Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey) taxonomy.

PSPES Category Level 1	*Amount (£)*
Construction	1,156,508,494
Energy and Utilities	27,024,294
Engineering Goods	0
Facilities	29,241,654
Fuels Lubricants and Gases	882,008
ICT	174,458,014
Logistics	444,569
Marketing and Media	4,884,678
Not in PSPES	34,848,115
Office Solutions	73,661,694
Operational Goods and Services	41,902,129
Personnel Related	2,080,512
Professional Services—Financial	12,884,712
Professional Services—Learning and Development	4,061,991
Professional Services—Technical Services	116,741,258
Professional Services—Consultancy	4,579,514
Professional Services—Other	29,483,439
Professional Services—Temporary Staff	1,551,689
Social Care	20,310,415
Travel and Events	5,105,826
Uncategorised	32,840,306
Vehicles	10,007,021
Waste Management	158,061
Clinical and Medical	157,000

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69265]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport and its non-departmental bodies followed Office of Government Commerce methodology for estimating savings made via its procurement and purchasing. Cash savings were measured against the indicative contract budget, the initial tendered price and the final price following negotiation.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the UK Renewable Energy Roadmap published on 12 July 2011 assumes the 25 per cent. grant for eligible ultra-low carbon vehicles will continue beyond January 2012. [69557]

Norman Baker: Last year's spending review announcement confirmed that the Government have made provision to support the Plug-in Car Grant consumer incentive for ultra-low emission vehicles for the life of this Parliament. This is referred to in the UK Renewable Energy Roadmap.

To ensure continued value for money for the taxpayer, the scheme, and the level of subsidy provided, will be regularly reviewed, with the first review of the Plug-In Car Grant taking place in January 2012.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue the Government Car and Despatch Agency received from each Government Department in respect of its *(a)* allocated service and *(b)* ministerial car pool in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [69789]

Mike Penning: Details on the revenue that the Government Car and Despatch Agency received from each Government Department for both allocated and ministerial car pool services for the period 2010 to 2011 will be published in a written ministerial statement to the House in due course.

Invalid Vehicles: Public Transport

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to his Department's review of legislation on powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs, whether the national strategy for carrying mobility scooters on public transport vehicles will consider plating wheelchairs that are suitable to be carried on public transport. [69689]

Norman Baker: My Department recognises the need for consistency when it comes to the carriage of powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters on public transport, so people can be confident of whether their vehicle can be accommodated.

The consultation on the review of legislation around electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters did not address the issue of carriage on public transport, but, as recommended by the Transport Select Committee, we are now addressing this. We will be working with industry and users to look at the practicality of a plating system, and an announcement will be made once all the issues have been considered.

Metal Theft

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of metal theft was to projects and infrastructure maintained or administered by his Department in each of the last six years. [69811]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what analysis his Department has conducted on the potential effects on the level of *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious casualties and *(c)* slight casualties of an increase in motorway speed limits to 80 mph. [69357]

Mike Penning: The Department is conducting analysis of the effects of a change in the motorway speed limit but does not yet have the results that show what the impact on casualties would be.

Noise: Pollution

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements there are on his Department's agencies to seek to alleviate levels of environmental noise in First Priority Locations identified by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in its noise mapping. [69428]

Norman Baker: The Highways Agency is the DfT agency that has direct responsibility for managing traffic noise in First Priority Locations.

The Highways Agency is required to investigate First Priority Locations identified by DEFRA under the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations (2006).

These regulations require strategic noise maps and action plans to be prepared for urban areas (agglomerations), major roads, major railways and major airports. England's Noise Action Plans were formally adopted by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs on Monday 15 March 2010.

Northern Railway Franchise

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money his Department has received under revenue sharing arrangements from the Northern franchise in each year since the Northern franchise was granted. [69604]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received the following revenue sharing receipts from the Northern franchise:

	£ million
2006-07	6,747
2007-08	7,836
2008-09	10,804
2009-10	10,995

The revenue share for 2010-11 has yet to be finalised.

Railways: Cardiff

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which train manufacturers he has met to discuss bidding for the Intercity Express Programme trains planned to operate on the electrified line to Cardiff; and on how many occasions he has met each such manufacturer since May 2010. [61257]

Mrs Villiers: Since May 2010 the Secretary of State has met Hitachi, the appointed manufacturer to Agility Trains, which is the preferred bidding consortium for the Intercity Express Programme contract, appointed in 2009 to discuss the procurement process that is nearing completion. A record of these meetings is in my answer given today (UIN 61258).

Within this period the Secretary of State has also met once with representatives of Bombardier, Alstom and Siemens, each of which pre-qualified for the Intercity Express Programme as part of other consortia.

Railways: Diesel Fuel

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the use of diesel Pacer railbuses after 2019. [69603]

Mrs Villiers: The deployment of rolling stock is typically a matter for train operators and Rolling Stock Leasing companies, with the Department's role being limited to ensuring that tax-payers and fare-payers receive value for money.

The expansion in the number of electrified rail routes may mean that fewer diesel trains will be needed in the future.

The Department has set out the level of accessibility that it expects Pacers to have if they are to remain in service after 2019—it will be for the owners to decide whether to invest in life-extension works. Indeed, one has already released images of interior refurbishment concepts.

High Speed 2

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish details of the effects on train services to Manchester and the North West of England of the completion of a high speed line to Manchester and Leeds. [69605]

Mr Philip Hammond: Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, HS2 would result in faster and more frequent services between London and cities in the North West. A full Y-shaped high speed network to Manchester and Leeds would be able to accommodate trains that can carry up to 1,100 people from Manchester to London in one hour 13 minutes, and from Manchester to Birmingham in 49 minutes. In addition, high speed services through-running on to the conventional network would be able to reach other towns and cities in the North West, for example reducing the journey time between London and Liverpool to as little as one hour 37 minutes.

As per the illustrative service specification for the 'Y' network outlined in the Economic Case for the Government's proposals for High Speed 2, there would be four high speed services an hour to Manchester from London in the peak, two services an hour from Birmingham to Manchester, two services an hour from London to Liverpool (with intermediate stops at Stafford, Crewe, and Runcorn and Warrington) and two services an hour in the peak from London to Wigan, Preston and Glasgow.

In addition, HS2 would free up capacity on existing rail lines, which will provide more space for better and new services, including services to and from the North West.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to extend high speed services to the North West. [69606]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Government's proposed strategy for high speed rail is to construct a Y-shaped network linking directly to Manchester and Leeds. This would be able to accommodate 400 m trains carrying up to 1,100 people, enabling a significant increase in capacity to Manchester, as well as reducing the journey time to London to around 73 minutes. Other destinations in the North West such as Liverpool or Preston could also see significant capacity and journey time improvements via high speed services through-running on to the conventional network.

In addition, even the opening of the initial London to West Midlands phase of the proposed network would see through-running high speed trains serving Manchester, Liverpool and other cities in the North West of England.

Rescue Services

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what would be the operational responsibilities of coastguards based in the *(a)* Maritime Operations Centre and *(b)* Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres under the revised proposals for the future of the Coastguard service. [69598]

Mike Penning: The operational responsibilities and skill levels of coastguards at a Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) and a Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre (MRSC) are the same and are described within the original consultation document published on 16 December 2010, pages 26 to 28.

The concept of operations is further explained in the supporting documentation to the second consultation document published on 14 July 2011, which may be found on pages 2 to 6 at:

www.dft.gov.uk/mca/supporting_documentation-3.pdf

Roads: Schools

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each school within 150 metres of a road which carries on average over 10,000 vehicles per day. [69435]

Norman Baker: The Department does not hold the information in the form requested, and I regret it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many carriages the Thameslink programme will release for redeployment in each year between 2013 and 2018. [69027]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 6 September 2011]:* No existing carriages will be redeployed in 2013 or 2014 as the first of the new Thameslink trains are not expected to enter service until early 2015, with all trains (around 1,200 vehicles) expected to be operating in time for the December 2018 timetable. The exact detail of the deployment and roll-out of the new trains is currently being developed.

The redeployment of existing vehicles is dependent on other factors, for example franchise lengths and the exact timing of the electrification programmes. However, approximately 400 existing vehicles are expected to be redeployed in the period from 2015 to 2018.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-86WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, whether he has *(a)* requested or *(b)* received legal advice since 10 May 2010 on options for changing the terms of the original invitation to tender for the Thameslink contract; and if he will publish any such advice. [R] [65775]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 13 July 2011]:* It is in the public interest that the decisions taken by the Secretary of State are taken in a fully informed legal context where relevant. Communications between the Secretary of State and his legal advisers are subject to the legal advice privilege.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he gave consideration to the July 2009 Competition Commission report on the rolling stock leasing market as part of the assessment of bids for the Thameslink rolling stock contract; and if he will make a statement. [R] [68702]

Mrs Villiers: The Department was aware of, and considered, the report by the Competition Commission on the rolling stock leasing market when it was published.

The Competition Commission did not require any alterations to the Thameslink rolling stock procurement process, and none were made as a result of its report.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any part of the process to assess bids for the Thameslink rolling stock contract was sub-contracted to a third party; and if he will list any such sub-contractors. [R] [68713]

Mrs Villiers: The assessment of bids was led by the Department for Transport, supported and advised by representatives from Network Rail, First Capital Connect, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Freshfields Bruckhaus Derringer, Interfleet Technology and Arup.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* sections of the procurement document and *(b)* provisions of EU procurement law prevents a re-appraisal of the existing award of preferred bidder status for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [R] [68733]

Mrs Villiers: The detailed process and criteria for the evaluation of Thameslink bids and the process defining the award of a preferred bidder are clearly set out in section 3 of the Thameslink rolling stock project invitation to tender. In particular section 3.3 defines the process that must be used for the selection of the preferred bidder. Any re-appraisal of the existing bidder proposals against these criteria will only produce the same outcome. As a matter of procurement law the Department would be open to legal challenge if it now sought to change the evaluation criteria or, process, or the process for identifying the preferred bidder.

Article 4 of the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 requires bidders to be treated in a way which is equal, non-discriminatory and transparent. This reflects European treaty principles.

This article would prevent new requirements being introduced into the evaluation process which discriminate against a particular bidder.

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 718W, on Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, on what dates officials in his Department met representatives of Bombardier Transportation UK Ltd between 12 May and 16 June 2011; and what the purpose was of such meetings. [69196]

Mrs Villiers: DFT officials met representatives of Bombardier Transportation UK Ltd on 12, 17 and 19 May 2011. The meetings discussed business matters between the Department and Bombardier.

Trains: Rolling Stock

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on plans to deploy rolling stock to train operators in future; and if he will publish the most recent plans. [69602]

Mrs Villiers: Work is under way to provide additional rolling stock on many routes around the country. Combined with the IEP, Thameslink and Crossrail projects, our plan is that 2,700 new carriages will be in service by the end of 2019. 349 additional carriages were added to the network during the coalition's first 12 months in office and progress has been made on the procurement process for carriages to be delivered under the IEP, Thameslink and Crossrail programmes.

The last formal rolling stock plan was prepared by the previous Administration and published in July 2008. We will be considering Sir Roy McNulty's recommendations on rolling stock but start from the position that the rail industry should be best placed to lead on rolling stock cascade proposals, with the Government's role primarily focused on ensuring that these represent value for money.

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information he holds on the number of current rolling stock for train carriages. [69702]

Mrs Villiers: The information is available from a number of industry publications such as *Platform 5* and associated trade magazines. The current passenger rolling stock numbers, excluding locomotives, is around 11,600 carriages.

West Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 722W, on West Coast Railway line, on what dates he received information from officials in his Department on the status of the procurement for the Intercity Express programme. [69195]

Mrs Villiers: Since taking office Ministers have received submissions on the status of the Intercity Express Programme on an ongoing basis.

West Coast Railways Line

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will include a requirement to modernise railway stations on the West Coast Main Line in the tender which is to begin in 2012. [69672]

Mrs Villiers: A new franchising system has been devised to facilitate and encourage private investment, and to deliver benefits for passengers.

In order to lower unit operating costs, the new franchisee will assume full repair responsibilities for the 17 stations it manages under a 99-year lease from Network Rail (at present it is split between the operator and Network Rail). Bidders will be expected to consider what appropriate enhancements should be made and how best to improve service quality at these stations.

A residual value mechanism is being created to account for the long term value of station improvements if these carry on beyond the franchise end date. This could reward operators for investment with a pay back period longer than their franchise term.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 September 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

MyUK

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what feedback the Parliamentary Education Service has received following the launch of MyUK; and if he will make a statement. [70622]

John Thurso: 8 September 2011 is the official launch of MyUK, the new online learning activity from Parliament's Education Service. Feedback from students and teachers prior to the launch has been extremely positive, and the quality of the material has already been recognised, having been shortlisted in the 'best learning game, simulation or virtual environment' category at this year's prestigious E-Learning Awards. The Education Service will provide hon. and right hon. Members with MyUK publicity material for their schools to coincide with Parliament Week (31 October to 6 November 2011).

Construction

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, by what date the House of Commons Commission expects Commons Court to be free of scaffolding, portacabins, builders' huts and contractors' vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [69753]

John Thurso: The portacabins currently located in Commons Court are being used for the medium-term mechanical and engineering project. It is envisaged that they will remain in place until the current phase of the project is completed, expected to be at the end of December 2011. Commons Court is an area suitable for site huts and from time to time in the future huts are likely to be sited there in connection with various works projects.

Most of the scaffolding in Commons Court has been erected to permit the demolition of a roof-top hut. This scaffolding is due to be removed in the next few weeks. The remainder of the scaffolding is there to carry power and water services above the carriageway to the portacabins and will be removed at the same time as the cabins.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Chagos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* US and *(b)* Mauritius counterpart on the Chagos Islands. [70878]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) and I have had no recent discussions on the British Indian Ocean Territory with our US or Mauritian counterparts.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to increase the number of officials of his Department based in Gibraltar. [70875]

Mr Lidington: There are no plans to increase the number of officials in the Governor's Office in Gibraltar.

Sergei Magnitsky

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the Russian Interior Ministries on the prosecution of the late Sergei Magnitsky for tax evasion; and if he will make a statement. [70119]

Mr Lidington: While we have not had discussions with, or received representations from, the Russian Government on the resumption of the prosecution case against the late Mr Magnitsky, we have repeatedly made clear to the Russian Government our concerns about his arrest, detention and death. We have urged the Russian Government to investigate the case fully and bring to justice those responsible.

The Foreign Secretary discussed the case with Foreign Minister Lavrov when he visited London in February, and I raised the case during my visit to Moscow in July.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Russian Government on the prosecution of the late Sergei Magnitsky for tax evasion. [70120]

Mr Lidington: While we have not had discussions with, or received representations from, the Russian Government on the resumption of the prosecution case against the late Mr Magnitsky, we have repeatedly made clear to the Russian Government our concerns about his arrest, detention and death. We have urged the Russian Government to investigate the case fully and bring to justice those responsible.

The Foreign Secretary discussed the case with Foreign Minister Lavrov when he visited London in February, and I raised the case during my visit to Moscow in July.

Zimbabwe: Racial Discrimination

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government intends to ask the United Nations to activate the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in respect of Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [70821]

Mr Bellingham: Zimbabwe ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on 13 May 1991 and is required to respect that obligation.

The British Government regularly call on Zimbabwe to uphold its obligations under international human rights treaties, and to treat all of its citizens equally and fairly.

PRIME MINISTER

Climate Change: Conferences

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to attend the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. [70828]

The Prime Minister: The Government are committed to achieving an ambitious global deal to cut emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius. The UK will be represented at Durban by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) and the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker).

Departmental Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister how many senior civil servants in his Office at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Office had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Office in each such year. [68957]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office.

Appointments to the civil service are made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition in accordance with the Constitutional Reform Act 2010.

The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In May 2010 the Government announced a freeze on new consultancy expenditure. Any exception to this freeze (where the estimated value is over £20,000) must be approved by the relevant Minister. In the case of the Cabinet Office, the Minister for the Cabinet Office approves any exception to the consultancy freeze. Expenditure on consultancy is only allowed if the consultancy is deemed to be operationally necessary, or the work cannot be done by in-house staff. All consultancy contracts are subject to a review every three months, for a maximum of nine months. Where contracts go beyond nine months, they must be submitted for approval to the Efficiency and Reform Group for consideration by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Right to Challenge

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department plans to issue to local authorities on the statutory grounds on which certain local services may be exempted from the Community Right to Challenge. [70183]

Andrew Stunell: The Localism Bill enables the Secretary of State to exempt services from the Community Right to Challenge, and to set out grounds for rejecting an expression of interest, in regulations. The Department is considering what additional guidance may need to be provided on these issues and will discuss this with key interested parties.

Community Relations

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects on community cohesion of the Al Quds Day rally held on 21 August 2011. [70037]

Andrew Stunell: My Department has made no specific assessment of the effects of the Al Quds Day rally.

Council Housing: Evictions

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* guidance has been issued to and *(b)* discussions he has had with local authorities on the eviction of council tenants from their homes if they, or their family members, are convicted of criminal conduct resulting from the public disorder of August 2011. [70572]

Grant Shapps: No guidance has been issued to local authorities on the eviction of tenants if they or their family members are convicted of criminal activities during the recent disorder. The Department for Communities and Local Government is however currently consulting on proposals to extend the existing discretionary ground for possession for antisocial behaviour to include tenants or family members who have been convicted of the sort of criminality witnessed during the recent riots, wherever that criminality took place.

During and in the aftermath of the riots a number of discussions took place between Ministers in this Department and local authorities. Eviction was one of many issues discussed.

Travellers

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was provided to each local authority from Homes and Communities Agency Gypsy and Traveller programme grants for new Gypsy and Traveller sites in each of the last five years. [70550]

Andrew Stunell: Before 2009, Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant was administered by DCLG and the following total sums were paid out:

2007-08—£32,295,321
2008-09—£22,945,064

Figures broken down by local authority are available in the Library of the House. The Homes and Communities Agency has been responsible for paying the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant since financial year 2009-10. Since then they have provided funding for:

2009-10

Local authority	*£*
Bedford	326,155
Sandwell	1,063,000
South Gloucestershire	418,163
Total	1,807,318

2010-11

Local authority	*£*
Barnsley	1,160,000
Bedford	279,786
Bromsgrove	999,600
Buckinghamshire	358.072
Corby	475,000
East Riding	1,214,139
Gateshead	512,549
Kent	932,107
Lancashire	278,362
Lincolnshire	1,248,571
Middlesbrough	583,009
North Dorset	956,856
North Yorkshire	43,986
Northumberland	935,007
Norwich	475,000
South Cambridgeshire	1,101,051
South Gloucestershire	77,250
Total	11,630,345

In the spending period 2011-15 £60 million has been set aside for the provision of new Traveller sites and the refurbishment of existing ones.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Traveller sites have been built in each local authority area since May 2010. [70551]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government only holds details on the number of pitches that have been built since May 2010 with Homes and Communities Agency funding. These are:

2009-10

Local authority	*New/additional pitches*
Bedford	9
Sandwell	1
South Gloucestershire	2
Total	12

2010-11

Local authority	*New/additional pitches*
Barnsley	2
Bedford	2
Bromsgrove	5
Buckinghamshire	1
Corby	4
East Riding	10
Gateshead	6
Kent	18
Lancashire	2
Lincolnshire	2
Middlesbrough	5
North Dorset	8
North Yorkshire	2
Northumberland	1
Norwich	3
South Cambridgeshire	1
South Gloucestershire	5
Total	77

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of unauthorised Traveller sites in *(a)* each local authority area and *(b)* England (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) since May 2010. [70552][1]

Andrew Stunell: The "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" undertaken bi-annually by local authorities in England and collated by my Department collects data on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England. It does not provide data on the number of unauthorised sites. Information on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England and by local authority area for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 is available in the Library of the House.

Figures from the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" for the past five years indicate a downward trend on unauthorised caravans.

	Number
January	
2007	3,797
2008	3,680
2009	841
2010	896
2011	695

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Edelman

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many telephone calls have taken place between his Department and Edelman since 6 May 2010; [67951]

(2) how many representatives of Edelman have visited his Department since 6 May 2010. [67952]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Deputy Prime Minister's office is part of the Cabinet Office. Details of telephone calls and meetings held by officials are not held centrally.

The Government are committed to publishing details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations on a quarterly basis. Details of these meetings can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 7MC.]*

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit: Domestic Violence

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the award of housing benefit to victims of domestic violence who flee their homes. [70181]

Steve Webb: Guidance for local authorities on the award of housing benefit for victims of domestic violence is contained in chapter A3, paragraphs 3.410-3.415 and 3.630-3.633, of the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Guidance Manual, which is published on the Department's website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/hbgm-a3-liability-to-make-payments.pdf

Housing Benefit: Parents

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-resident parents *(a)* in Bristol and *(b)* nationally who will be restricted to the local housing allowance shared accommodation rate as a result of increasing the age threshold to 35 in January 2012. [70138]

Steve Webb: It is estimated that around 10,000 of the people affected by the extension of the shared accommodation rate are non-resident parents who have some contact with children who live elsewhere.

Estimates have not been produced at local authority level.

Source:

DWP analysis of 2008/09 Family Resources Survey and 2008 Families and Children Survey

Housing Benefit: Prisoners

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with charities and support workers on the effects on single people under 35 leaving *(a)* prison and *(b)* supported housing of changes to the local housing allowance shared accommodation rate. [70137]

Steve Webb: We have regular meetings with voluntary organisations and these have included discussions on the change to the shared accommodation rate. We have also liaised closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government on the introduction of two new exemptions: for ex-offenders who could pose a risk of serious harm to the public, and those leaving hostels who have been homeless or are at risk of homelessness.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 25 May and 30 June 2011 regarding his constituent Mr P Philpot. [70733]

Chris Grayling: Despite an extensive search, I am afraid the Department has found no trace of these letters.

Pensioners: Jarrow

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners *(a)* aged 80 and over received the annual £400 winter fuel payment and *(b)* aged 60 and over received the annual £250 winter fuel payment in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [70098]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payment information is available in the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-10 by Parliamentary Constituencies, age and payment amount". This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

Information for 2010-11 is not currently available.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly income was of a pensioner household in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [70451]

Steve Webb: Estimates of the median equivalised household incomes after housing costs are published in the Households Below Average Income series. The median income is the income of the middle person in the population, such that half the population have incomes below the median and half the population have incomes above the median. The median is used instead of the mean income because the mean is affected by outlying cases with very high income values.

These statistics only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at regional level. Therefore, information is available for the North East region, but not available for Jarrow or South Tyneside.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility.

The first table shows the median equivalised weekly household income for pensioners in the North East of England, After Housing Costs, for three year periods spanning 1997-98 to 2009-10, which is the latest year for which figures are available.

The second table shows the median equivalised weekly household income for pensioners in the United Kingdom, After Housing Costs, for each year since 1998-99, which is the first year for which UK figures are available.

Equivalisation adjusts incomes for household size and composition, taking an adult couple with no children as the reference point. For example, the process of equivalisation would adjust the income of a single pensioner upwards, so that we can use income to directly compare their standard of living with a pensioner couple.

In each case, incomes are presented in 2009-10 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Table 1: Median equivalised weekly household incomes for pensioners in the North East, After Housing Costs

	Median equivalised household weekly income for pensioners, (£)
1997-98 to 1999-2000	223
1998-99 to 2000-01	225
1999-2000 to 2001-02	240
2000-01 to 2002-03	254
2001-02 to 2003-04	269
2002-03 to 2004-05	278
2003-04 to 2005-06	287
2004-05 to 2006-07	297
2005-06 to 2007-08	309
2006-07 to 2008-09	314
2007-08 to 2009-10	317

Table 2: Median equivalised weekly household incomes for pensioners in the United Kingdom, After Housing Costs

	Median equivalised household weekly income for pensioners, (£)
1998-99	241
1999-2000	253
2000-01	268
2001-02	280
2002-03	289
2003-04	295
2004-05	313
2005-06	321
2006-07	323
2007-08	335
2008-09	341
2009-10	347

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on an After Housing Cost basis. For After Housing Costs, housing costs are deducted from income.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
6. Monetary amounts have been rounded to the nearest £1.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide received the basic state pension in each year since 1981. [70452]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

State pension recipients, March 2000 to March 2002 and February 2003 to February 2011

	Great Britain	*North East region*	*South Tyneside local authority*	*Jarrow parliamentary constituency*
March 2000	10,126,800	472,200	30,100	15,600
March 2001	10,176,700	473,700	29,800	15,500
March 2002	10,233,000	475,000	30,100	15,900
February 2003	10,296,240	470,900	30,030	15,950
February 2004	10,385,360	473,970	29,930	15,990
February 2005	10,517,940	478,930	29,950	16,040
February 2006	10,585,700	481,260	29,930	16,070
February 2007	10,726,000	486,970	29,960	16,180
February 2008	10,920,230	494,900	30,220	16,400
February 2009	11,108,310	501,720	30,410	16,570
February 2010	11,334,610	511,870	30,870	16,830
February 2011	11,403,370	513,890	30,700	17,130

Notes:

1. Geographical breakdowns were not available on the state pension data until September 1999.
2. 5% sample figures are rounded to the nearest hundred, 100% figures to nearest 10.
3. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data was not available prior to February 2003, therefore 5% sample data was used instead. The sample data is uprated to be consistent with WPLS case loads.
4. State pension figure provided is the total State pension case load. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
5. From April 2010, the age at which women reach state pension age started to gradually increase from 60. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change.
6. This data does not include claimants living abroad. This data is available on the Department's tabulation tool at
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

Sources:

1. Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples from March 2000 to March 2002.
2. DWP Information Directorate, 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study from February 2003.

Post Office Card Account

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had a Post Office card account in the latest period for which figures are available. [70052]

Steve Webb: As of July 2011, around 3.5 million people held a Post Office card account.

Work Capability Assessment

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments have been completed in each month of the last year. [70900]

Chris Grayling: The Department regularly publishes official statistics on employment and support allowance (ESA) and the work capability assessment (WCA). The information requested can be found in the latest report published in July 2011 on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Tables 2 and 2a in the above publication show monthly statistics on completed initial and repeat assessments for ESA claims from October 2008 up to February 2011 (the latest data available).

The following table shows completed assessments for the latest year of data currently available. This is a summary of Tables 2 and 2a in the publication.

Completed assessments by month of assessment

	Initial assessments	*Repeat assessments*	*Total*
2010			
March	38,900	5,700	44,700
April	32,200	5,700	37,900
May	34,100	6,300	40,400
June	38,600	7,600	46,100
July	40,300	9,300	49,500
August	37,200	9,700	46,900
September	38,900	11,100	50,000
October	38,200	11,600	49,700
November	41,300	13,900	55,300
December	28,700	10,800	39,500
2011			
January	34,600	14,900	49,500
February	37,900	17,000	54,900
Total	440,900	123,600	564,500

Notes:
1. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare.
2. These figures do not include IB reassessment claims.
3. A small number of clerical assessments, where the result cannot be determined from DWP benefits data, are excluded from these figures.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Daylight Savings Bill

15. **Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the potential benefits to the tourism industry of the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill. [70602]

John Penrose: I have received a number of representations and am aware of a range of arguments regarding the effect of introducing daylight saving time on tourism businesses, other industries and sectors. Steps towards any movement in this area must be taken with consensus across the UK.

Film and Video Games Industries

17. **David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for future support for the *(a)* film and *(b)* video games industry; and if he will make a statement. [70604]

Mr Vaizey: In addition to grant in aid, lottery funding and the film tax relief, the Government have commissioned an independent review of film policy, with findings expected later this year.

We are committed to publishing a response to the Livingstone-Hope report on skills for the video games and visual effects sectors this summer.

London Olympics

18. **Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential legacy of the equestrian events of the London 2012 Olympics. [70605]

Hugh Robertson: Greenwich was chosen as the venue for the equestrian events for the London 2012 games with the support of the International Equestrian Federation and the British Equestrian Federation (BEF). Staging the events in Greenwich Park ensures a compact games, increases exposure and stimulates interest in equestrian sports with new audiences locally and across the UK. The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) staged the equestrian test event in July attended by 5,000 local people, including over 3,500 from local schools and colleges—the vast majority of whom attended an equestrian event for the first time.

Sport England is providing £4.2 million of funding to the BEF between 2009 and 2013 to increase access to equestrian sports under its Whole Sports Plan as part of the 2012 legacy.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the status is of the contingency fund for the London 2012 Olympics. [70739]

Hugh Robertson: The Government Olympic Executive publishes quarterly reports on progress towards delivering the Olympic and Paralympic games. These reports include the latest position on the status and level of contingency remaining within the £9.3 billion public sector funding package for the games. The most recent report, published in July 2011, showed that the balance of contingency and other savings in the programme stood at £643.5 million. For more information see:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8308.aspx

While we are confident that the programme will be delivered within the £9.3 billion budget, significant challenges remain in the final year before the games. We will continue to publish quarterly reports on progress, including the level of contingency remaining.

Media Ownership

20. **Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the implications for the broadcasting sector of the decision by News Corporation not to proceed with its proposed acquisition of BSkyB. [70607]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We have received a number of representations over the course of the proposed acquisition of BSkyB.

Casinos

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the restrictions on building new casinos under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005. [70031]

John Penrose: Not immediately. The Government would want to consider the impact of the small and large casinos which can currently be developed under the Gambling Act 2005, before making any judgment on how casino regulation should be treated in the future. The timing of any such consideration will depend on how quickly sufficient numbers of small and large casinos are in place to allow assessments of local impact in order to establish an overall picture.

Football: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether he has had any discussions with the Scottish Executive regarding the flying of the Cross of St. George at matches where Berwick Rangers play; [70869]

(2) whether his Department issues guidance on the flying or possession of flags by attendees at football matches; [70873]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Football Association, *(b)* the Scottish Football Association, *(c)* the Football Association of Wales, *(d)* the Irish Football Association, *(e)* the Scottish government and *(f)* FIFA on the flying of flags at football matches. [70877]

Hugh Robertson: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had discussions with colleagues at the Scottish Executive, or with the domestic or international football bodies, on this issue. There are no requirements in relation to the flying of flags at football grounds in the leagues in England, Wales and Scotland. It is for the club in each case, in conjunction with the police, and the local authority to decide on their use, based on safety and public order considerations.

Gun Sports

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 on levels of grassroots participation in target pistol shooting. [70179]

Hugh Robertson: Section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 concerns prohibited weapons, which Parliament has judged to be especially dangerous, and may only be possessed with the authority of the Home Secretary. In 1997, following the tragic shooting incident at Dunblane, Parliament legislated to place most pistols within this category. Sport England advise it is broadly accepted that participation in the Olympic Sport of Target Pistol Shooting in Great Britain dropped by an estimated 70% post 1998.

Motor Sports

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on Formula One motor racing in the last year. [70260]

Hugh Robertson: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had specific discussions on Formula One. However departmental officials, along with their colleagues at Business, Innovations and Skills, meet regularly with motorsport representatives. I have also met the chief executive of the Motorsport Association to discuss a range of issues in the sport.

Telephone Hacking

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made in the Leveson inquiry into telephone hacking. [70136]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Lord Justice Leveson has made some opening remarks which set out how he intends to run his independent Inquiry. Details of that and of the panel members appointed to assist him in his work can be found on the Inquiry's website at:

http://www.levesoninquiry.org.uk

Written Questions: Government Responses

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71125]

John Penrose: During the period 27 May 2010 to 19 July 2011, 22.8% of written parliamentary questions tabled to my Department for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. During the period 9 March 2011 to 19 July 2011, 24.9% of written parliamentary questions tabled to my Department for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer.

My Department endeavours to answer all named day parliamentary questions on the allocated day but where this is not possible we aim to provide a substantive reply at the earliest opportunity possible.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business Questions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Leader of the House if he will make it his policy to increase the number of days allocated to backbench business in the 2010-12 Session pro rata from 35 to reflect the anticipated length of the Session. [70397]

Sir George Young: As I said in my written ministerial statement of 23 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 60WS, the Government are mindful that, due to the longer than usual current Session, extra provision will be necessary for Opposition days and Back-Bench business days. No changes to Standing Orders are necessary to accommodate adequate extra provision in these two instances, and I will announce the provision of extra time through the weekly business statement as usual.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Leader of the House what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71135]

Sir George Young: I have answered all 35 named day written parliamentary questions tabled to this Office since 27 May 2010 on the named day.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. [70825]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State meets regularly with the Prime Minister to discuss a range of issues.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had on the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. [70826]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State and other DECC Ministers have had a range of meetings, including bilateral and formal events on the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. Attendees at these meetings have included non-government organisations, external stakeholders, other Departments and representatives of other Governments.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he and his ministerial colleagues have had with European counterparts to discuss the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. [70827]

Gregory Barker: Discussions with EU counterparts on preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban took place at the March EU Environment Council, which the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) attended, and at the Informal Meeting of EU Environment Ministers, which I attended in July. Both Ministers are in regular contact with key European counterparts outside of these meetings to discuss issues including preparation for Durban.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71127]

Gregory Barker: 313 named day questions for written answer were tabled to the Department between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011. Of these, 35 questions did not receive a substantive reply on the named day.

178 named day questions for written answer were tabled to the Department between 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. Of these, 14 questions did not receive a substantive reply on the named day.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Desalination: Carbon Emissions

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effects of desalination plants on UK carbon emissions. [70053]

Gregory Barker: The UK has one desalination plant, run by Thames Water, which opened in 2010. We will not have any estimates of emissions from this plant until the UK's greenhouse gas inventory for 2010 is published in early 2012. Emissions attributable to the energy used by the plant will be included in these estimates.

Fuel Poverty: Housing

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty living in *(a)* F and *(b)* G rated properties in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71234]

Gregory Barker: The years for which data are available for England are shown in the following table. Numbers of households are rounded to the nearest thousand.

	Number of households in fuel poverty (F rated properties)	*Number of households in fuel poverty (G rated properties)*
2009	856,000	436,000
2008	811,000	410,000
2007	749,000	415,000
2006	735,000	437,000

Fuel Poverty: Prices

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of increasing fuel prices on levels of fuel poverty since July 2011; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71171]

Gregory Barker: On 14 July 2011, DECC published projections of fuel poverty in England in 2011. These indicated that the number of fuel poor households in England is likely to rise to 4.1 million in 2011 as the price changes begin to impact.

Nevertheless, the main impact on fuel poverty will occur in 2012 and will only be known when we have full information on price changes and data from the 2011 and 2012 English Housing Survey (EHS). The EHS provides vital information for calculating the level of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock. Each of the devolved Administrations manages equivalent surveys with the same range of information as fuel poverty is a devolved statistic.

Wind Power: Birds

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will commission independent research into the effect of *(a)* offshore and *(b)* onshore wind turbine bird strikes on bird habitats and populations. [70171]

Charles Hendry: Both on and offshore wind farm developers commission specialist consultants to undertake survey work and modelling to determine the likelihood and significance of bird strikes as part of their environmental impact assessments. If a Special Protection Area or other Natura 2000 site is affected, the competent authority is also required to conduct an Appropriate Assessment[1] that will address bird collision risk, if appropriate.

The Department funds a strategic programme of research into the impacts of offshore wind farms, as part of its rolling programme of Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessments[2]. This has included bird tagging and monitoring to determine the foraging behaviour and flight heights of selected seabird species to provide input to collision risk assessments.

A considerable amount of research has been undertaken to determine the significance of impacts of wind farms on wildlife. The RSPB has noted in its own report on planning for onshore turbines[3] that:

"the majority of studies indicate that (bird) collision mortality rates per turbine in the UK are low.'

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[1] Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/42/EEC).

[2] See http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/index.php

[3] See http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/Positive%20Planning%20for%20Onshore%20Wind_tcm9-213280.pdf

Wind Power: Hydrogen

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the status is of hydrogen in his Department's energy policy; what consideration he has given to the possibility of storing power from wind farms in the form of hydrogen; and what conclusion he reached. [71168]

Charles Hendry: Hydrogen is regarded as having the potential to contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions in the UK and globally in the period 2020-50.

Hydrogen is an energy carrier (like electricity) which has to be produced using a primary energy source. If used in fuel cells, hydrogen offers zero emissions at the point of use. It can be produced using low carbon routes such as electrolysis using renewable electricity, but currently the most economic route is from fossil fuels such as natural gas.

Hydrogen has long-term potential for both transport and distributed energy applications, but further research, development and demonstration will be needed before the market can make a realistic assessment of its prospects. It is technically feasible to use hydrogen to store power from wind farms but with the exception of some remote or island installations it does not appear so far to have found favour with wind farm developers. This may reflect the costs of hydrogen relative to that of other energy storage options, or the non-storage option.

TRANSPORT

Buses: GPS

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will develop a strategy for the installation for global positioning system tracking systems on bus fleets. [70100]

Norman Baker: In England, outside London, the installation of global positioning systems or other automatic vehicle location (AVL) equipment on bus fleets is a matter for the individual bus operator. Since April 2010 operators have been eligible for a 2% increase in bus subsidy for each bus where AVL equipment is installed and operating.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68948]

Norman Baker: One senior civil servant, a deputy director, worked for Ernst & Young immediately prior to their appointment at the Department for Transport in March 2010. There is no central record of a consultancy agreement with that consultancy for that financial year.

Telephone Services

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he has allocated to each telephone helpline operated by his Department in 2011-12; and what the purpose is of each such helpline. [68547]

Norman Baker: The Department does not currently operate any permanent telephone helplines, but directly manages four public facing contact centres. The budget for each contact centre in 2011-12 is as follows:

	£ million
DVLA	18.5
DSA	3.9
VOSA	1.7
Highways Agency	0.8

These provide a range of services to citizens and businesses via telephone, e-mail and post including: supplying advice and information on services; handling inquiries about driver and vehicle licensing transactions; dealing with bookings for driving tests and vehicle inspections; and providing up to date information on road works and traffic conditions on the strategic road network.

DSA also provides a small contact centre for the Driving Theory Test. This is part of an externally tendered contract for which costs for the contact centre element are not separately available.

Driving: Age

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the application of provisions of the Equality Act 2010 relating to age discrimination to car rental companies on his Department's road safety strategy. [70645]

Mike Penning: The Government are currently considering the responses to the age discrimination consultation which finished on 25 May 2011, before making a decision on the policy, which will be conveyed in the Government's published response to the consultation.

We have thought carefully about whether the different road safety risk faced by older and younger drivers might justify a blanket exception. While these groups clearly do have different risk profiles from other drivers, a blanket exception would be an excessively blunt instrument, and inconsistent with what the Equality Act is trying to achieve. Under the exemption planned for financial services, firms will be able to reflect in their prices the link between age, risk and insurance costs.

In addition, and irrespective of what is finally decided on any exception, it will be still open to firms to justify objectively any restrictions they may wish to place on who may rent their cars. For example, a firm might require a minimum level of driving experience of those renting vehicles This would be consistent with the road safety evidence which suggests that it is experience, rather than just age, which is a key determinant of road safety risk. We believe such a practice is likely to meet the objective justification test if challenged as indirect age discrimination.

Driving: Licensing

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to publish its response to the consultation on proposals to amend driving licence standards for vision, diabetes and epilepsy. [71012]

Mike Penning: Responses to the proposed changes for vision and epilepsy are being analysed now with further input being sought from some of those who have responded. Final decisions have not yet been taken and a date for implementation or publication of responses has not been set. However, we do intend to introduce changes to the law in October to allow drivers with insulin treated diabetes to apply for a licence to drive larger lorries and buses.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and *(b)* Diabetes UK on proposals to amend driving licence standards for people with diabetes. [71013]

Mike Penning: I have held discussions with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) but I have not met Diabetes UK about the proposal to amend driving licence standards for people with diabetes. I am aware that officials from the DVLA have held discussions with Diabetes UK. Diabetes UK has also submitted written comments as part of the recent public consultation exercise. I plan to introduce legislation in October that will permit drivers with insulin treated diabetes to be considered for driving entitlement to buses and lorries.

Rescue Services: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of lives saved by coastguards operating out of the *(a)* Forth and *(b)* Clyde station in the last 10 years; what estimate he has made of the average length of service of staff serving at each station; and what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies at each station consequent upon the decision to close them. [68196]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 5 September 2011]*: The Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) at Clyde and Forth are responsible for the co-ordination of maritime search and rescue. It is organisations such as the volunteer Coastguard Rescue Service and the RNLI that respond to maritime incidents. They will continue to be tasked by the MRCCs to respond to such incidents.

Her Majesty's Coastguard do not record estimates of lives saved. However, following the debate in Westminster Hall on 24 March 2011 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) published a breakdown of incident statistics for the period 2006-10. This information is available on the MCA's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/mca

The average (median) length of service for Coastguards at Clyde Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) is 13.43 years, and at Forth MRCC is 15.98 years.

With the closure of the MRCCs there will be a loss of 31 posts at Clyde MRCC and 20 posts at Forth MRCC. However, these will be reduced by a mixture of natural wastage and redundancy depending on the agreed implementations schedule.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates bidders for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project were required to submit *(a)* their initial bids and *(b)* any revised bids. [65190]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* Initial bids were required on 25 June 2009 and further responses from both bidders were required to the following Supplementary Instructions as follows:

2nd Supplementary Instructions on 16 March 2010;

3rd Supplementary Instructions on 16 March 2010;

4th Supplementary Instructions on 26 May 2010;

5th Supplementary Instructions on 24 January 2011.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many meetings *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* senior departmental officials had with lobby companies representing Siemens between 10 July 2008 and 16 June 2011 at which the Thameslink rolling stock contract was discussed; and if he will make a statement; [68620]

(2) whether *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* senior officials met to discuss the Thameslink rolling stock contract with lobbying companies between 10 July 2008 and 16 June 2011. [68715]

Mrs Villiers: Details of the Secretary of State for Transport's meetings are published quarterly on the DfT website.

Since 10 July 2008 no Ministers or senior officials in the Department have met lobbying companies to discuss the Thameslink rolling stock contract, since 10 July 2008.

Thameslink: Contracts

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of manufacturing industry to discuss the Thameslink contract; on what dates; and with whom. [65894]

Mrs Villiers: All ministerial diary commitments are published on the Department for Transport's website.

Vehicle Number Plates: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pieces of correspondence relating to the use of national flags on vehicle number plates he has received in the last 12 months. [70872]

Mike Penning: The correspondence records of the Department and its executive agencies (specifically VOSA and DVLA) suggest that no pieces of correspondence regarding national flags on vehicle number plates were received in the 12 months up to September 2011.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on tarmac roads in Afghanistan in each year since the start of UK military operations. [69901]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since 2007 the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £17.2 million on improving roads in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Up to 2010, an estimated £98 million provided by DFID through the World Bank-managed Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) was used for infrastructure, a large proportion of which supported priority road projects through the National Rural Access Program and National Solidarity Program.

Road improvement work in Afghanistan is a combination of road construction, repair and improvement, including tarmacing. Figures for annual spend are not available.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many miles of tarmac roads his Department has funded in Afghanistan in each year since the start of UK military operations. [69905]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Between 2007 and 2010, the UK Government have directly contributed to the construction or rehabilitation of approximately 91 miles of roads in Helmand province, Afghanistan. A further 53 miles of road improvements are under way.

In addition, through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), DFID has indirectly supported the improvement of 6,584 miles of roads through the National Rural Access Program (NRAP), and contributed to construction or upgrades of a further 10,875 miles of roads through the National Solidarity Program.

Road improvement work in Afghanistan is a combination of road construction, repair and improvement, including tarmacing. Annual figures are not available.

Research

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from what organisation each piece of research commissioned by his Department since May 2010 was commissioned; and what the net worth was of the commission in each case. [69260]

Mr O'Brien: I have placed in the Library of the House a table detailing the lead organisations commissioned to undertake research by the central research department at the Department for International Development (DFID) since 1 May 2010, along with the value of each contract or agreement. Research work is routinely subject to competitive tendering.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other contacts he has had with Vitol Group since May 2010. [70520]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of meetings are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Libya: Reconstruction

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to post-conflict reconstruction in Libya. [70516]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In classifying expenditure, the Department for International Development (DFID) does not explicitly separate conflict prevention from post-conflict reconstruction. Post-conflict reconstruction work is funded both from the tri-departmental Conflict Pool, part of a separate HM Treasury settlement on conflict resources, and from DFID's own budget.

The Conflict Pool is used to fund a wide range of conflict prevention work including activities aimed at preventing the recurrence of violent conflict, for example in the Western Balkans. Planned Conflict Pool expenditure, which includes Official Development Assistance (ODA) and non-ODA spend, to 2014-15 is as follows:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Conflict Pool	256	270	290	309
Of which:				
ODA	130	150	175	200
non-ODA	126	120	115	109

The Government have committed to increase the proportion of UK ODA that supports conflict-affected and fragile states to 30% by 2014-15. In 2010-11, approximately £1.9 billion, around a fifth of UK ODA, supported fragile and conflict-affected states, tackling the drivers of instability, building more responsive and accountable governments and strengthening security and justice overseas. Increasing such spending to 30% of UK ODA means we could double the amount spent on such activities by 2014-15. While we are not able to provide further details of expenditure by year, we will publish in our Annual Report and Resource Accounts the percentage of UK ODA spent in fragile and conflict-affected states.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department is funding on nitrogen fixation on farms. [70298]

Mr Paice *[holding answer given 7 September 2011]:* Nitrogen fixing crops offer an opportunity to reduce synthetic fertiliser use on farms, with the benefit that greenhouse gas emissions associated with fertiliser production and use can be reduced. DEFRA is co-funding a project with industry (LK09106) investigating the use of legume-based mixtures to enhance the nitrogen use efficiency and economic viability of cropping systems. The Department is also funding research on the genetics of grass and clover mixtures (project IF0145) to develop more sustainable and productive pasture systems, and maximise opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This represents an investment of £1.7 million in research into nitrogen fixation on farms.

Animal Welfare: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support she plans to provide to local authorities seeking to tackle anti social behaviour involving dogs. [69692]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is working closely with the Home Office on the antisocial behaviour aspects of the issue of dangerous dogs. The Home Office launched a public consultation on proposals to give the police, local authorities and other partners more effective powers to tackle antisocial behaviour. The proposed new, flexible tools would replace the 18 formal powers currently available to the police and local authorities—including those applicable to dogs. The consultation closed in May and the Home Office is currently considering the responses.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on *(a)* proposed measures to tackle anti social behaviour and *(b)* the effect of such measures on the ownership of dangerous and status dogs. [69694]

Mr Paice: My noble Friend the Lord Henley has been working alongside Baroness Browning at the Home Office to see how the antisocial measures can be best applied to such behaviour relating to dogs.

Badgers

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the training of operatives to carry out a badger cull; [68985]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost to Natural England of training associated with her proposals for a badger cull. [68987]

Mr Paice: To obtain a licence to carry out culling, operators would be required to demonstrate competence and attend a Government-approved training course. This badger-specific course would include training to cover anatomical and behavioural characteristics of badgers and how these differ from other species, as well as health, safety and security aspects. Additional marksmanship training and assessment would be required for those who may have experience but no formal qualification such as Deer Stalking Certificate or equivalent.

The farming industry would be expected to design, organise and deliver these training courses. We expect Government will incur some modest costs relating to the approval and auditing of these courses, which will be met from existing resources.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the likely costs to the public purse in each cost category arising from the proposed badger cull in respect of each 150 km^2 cull area. [68988]

Mr Paice: Our most recent estimates relate to two pilot areas of 350 km^2 each. For each area, the costs to the public purse are expected to be £0.6 million for licensing, £0.3 million for monitoring and £0.1 million for testing and compensation costs in cattle TB incidents arising from perturbation impacts in the areas neighbouring the pilots. If the pilot areas were 150 km^2, these costs would be slightly lower at £0.4 million, £0.2 million and £0.1 million respectively. All the costs are expressed in present value terms. The savings to the public purse from reduced costs of cattle TB incidents prevented by a successful cull are estimated to exceed these costs. Policing costs have not yet been estimated.

Biodiversity

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's Natural Environment White Paper, what decision-making process will apply to the timing and distribution of funding for forest and biodiversity conservation under the International Climate Fund. [69675]

Richard Benyon: Decisions on forestry funding under the International Climate Fund (ICF) will be informed by a recently published independent review commissioned by the Government. This will set out and assess options for how the UK can most effectively scale up its programming on REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries), offering the best outcomes for carbon abatement, poverty reduction and biodiversity enhancement.

The UK is currently undertaking a design phase to prepare a programme for UK bilateral support (of up to £300 million) on REDD+ in priority countries. This support will be distributed over the length of the spending review period (2011-15). Resources will be allocated in line with ICF objectives and an agreed set of expected results. The ICF will use a set of high level indicators to measure impact and value for money, including an assessment of ecosystem services saved. In line with commitments set out in the Natural Environment White Paper, all funding decisions will be based on strong scientific evidence. We will ensure environmental monitoring systems are in place to assess impact, thus aiding the design of future programmes.

Bovine tuberculosis

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to her Statement of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 811-2, on Bovine TB, who will provide training courses for those carrying out a badger cull; and whether additional courses will be provided on *(a)* the physiology of badgers and *(b)* any health and safety requirements. [69212]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 6 September 2011]*: To obtain a licence to carry out culling operators would be required to demonstrate competence and attend a Government-approved training course. This badger-specific course would include training to cover anatomical and behavioural characteristics of badgers and how these differ from other species, as well as health, safety and security aspects. Additional marksmanship training and assessment would be required for those who may have experience but no formal qualification such as Deer Stalking Certificate or equivalent.

The farming industry would be expected to design, organise and deliver these training courses. We expect Government will incur some modest costs relating to the approval and auditing of these courses, which will be met from existing resources.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the potential reduction in compensation and testing costs over *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years under her proposed measures to tackle the spread of bovine TB in cattle. [68981]

Mr Paice: Our central estimate of the potential net reduction in compensation and testing costs to Government for a single badger control area of 350 km^2 is £2.9 million over 10 years, of which £1.1 million occurs in the first five years. These figures are expressed in net present value terms.

Without any further action to tackle bovine TB, it is estimated that the disease would cost the taxpayer £1 billion in England alone over the next 10 years.

Common Agricultural Policy

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to farmers in Harrogate District under the common agricultural policy in the last 12 months. [70233]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency does not record information on payments to farmers on a constituency basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dogs: Urban Areas

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the size of the *(a)* dog and *(b)* cat population in urban areas; and if she will bring forward proposals to institute a national neutering day. [69698]

Mr Paice: No definitive statistics are available on the size of the dog and cat population.

The Government recommends all owners have their dogs and cats neutered if they do not intend to breed them. While there are no plans for the Government to institute a "national neutering day", many animal welfare organisations promote neutering through a range of initiatives.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the risk that a reduction in resources affects the capability of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency to detect and prevent a foot and mouth outbreak. [70307]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The primary responsibility for the detection and prevention of foot and mouth disease (FMD) rests with the animal keeper. The animal keeper has a duty to report any suspicion of FMD to Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA). AHVLA and its delivery partners retain their capabilities to respond effectively to outbreaks of FMD and the impact of the current reduction in the AHVLA resources is considered to be very low.

Meat: Labelling

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to introduce meat labelling that indicates whether the animal slaughtered has been stunned or non-stunned. [70316]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* While the Government remain of the view that it would prefer to see all animals stunned before slaughter it has, over the last few months, made it clear that it has no plans to ban the slaughter of animals without a pre-cut stun where this is done for religious purposes to meet the needs of a particular religious community. However, Ministers have made it clear that they will wish to discuss options for improving the welfare of animals slaughtered without stunning with the Jewish and Muslim communities. This will be done in the context of work to implement the new EU Regulation (No 1099/2009) on the protection of animals at the time of killing, which comes into effect on 1 January 2013. There will be full consultation with all interested parties before any final decisions are taken.

Pets

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that Regulation (EC) 998/2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals is renewed at the end of 2011; and if she will make a statement. [68674]

Mr Paice: As announced to the House by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) by written ministerial statement on 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 63-66WS, the UK will harmonise its rabies entry requirements with the EU-wide pet movement system from Sunday 1 January 2012. Under EU law, the new entry requirements will be directly applicable and will apply as soon as the derogations expire. New domestic legislation is being drafted to repeal the Non-Commercial Movement of Pet Animals (England) Regulations 2004 and to enforce the EU rules when they take effect on 1 January 2012. This legislation will be laid before Parliament in December 2011.

On tapeworm controls, following representations made by the UK, the European Commission has come forward with a proposal that would enable us to retain controls with a treatment window of one to five days. We have decided that the evidence doesn't justify maintaining tick controls, though should pet owners choose to do so as part of wider animal welfare considerations they could, and we are working with veterinary and welfare organisations to ensure that those travelling with their pets are provided with the necessary advice.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department has allocated in England to convert existing cages for laying hens into enriched cages. [70247]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has made no funding available under the English Rural Development Programme to egg producers in England to enable them to convert conventional cages. Our position is that this aid should not be available for meeting minimum legal standards. It would also be totally unfair to all those producers who have already invested heavily in conversion to give those late in doing so financial assistance.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on rates of lameness among broiler chickens in each of the last three years. [70297]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* DEFRA does not hold annual data on rates of lameness amongst broiler chickens.

Roadmap

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the European Commission's proposed roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe. [69309]

Mr Paice: In January, the Commission published the communication "a resource-efficient Europe", a flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 growth strategy for the coming decade.

The UK responded positively to the communication via a UK position paper which was sent to the Commission in April. This set out the UK's views on the forthcoming Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, and forms the basis for our discussions with the Commission on the initiative. It is available on DEFRA's website.

Weedkillers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent reports she has received on the contamination of crops and produce by the herbicide aminopyralid; and if she will make a statement. [69790]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* DEFRA Ministers receive regular information from officials on reports of crop damage allegedly caused by aminopyralid, and the latest of these shows that the number of such reports is decreasing.

Given the concern about the effects of aminopyralid in manure, the approval holder, Dow AgroSciences, is also providing the Government with regular reports detailing any complaints it has received and what action it has taken. Officials from the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD), as the pesticides regulator, also monitor any complaints received directly and are keeping this issue under scrutiny.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to extend tour of duty periods for *(a)* regular and *(b)* reservist service personnel serving overseas. [70170]

Mr Robathan: The Force Generation Review is considering a wide range of factors including tour lengths and harmony guidelines; this work is ongoing.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers are based at *(a)* Redford, *(b)* Dreghorn and *(c)* Craigiehall. [70202]

Mr Robathan: The number of Army officers currently based at Redford Barracks, Dreghorn Barracks and Craigiehall is shown in the following table:

Location	*Number of officers*
Redford Barracks	59
Dreghorn Barracks	38
Craigiehall	62

This information is taken from the joint personnel administration system and includes regular, non-regular permanent staff, reserves and full-time reserve service officers.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many children of Army personnel based at *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Redford and *(c)* Dreghorn have received funding from the public purse for the purposes of attending private schools (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of the number of children based at each site in each of the last 10 years. [70194]

Mr Robathan: The number of children of Army personnel based at Craigiehall Camp, Redford Barracks and Dreghorn Barracks, who are recorded as having claimed continuity of education allowance (CEA) on the joint personnel administration (JPA) system are detailed in the following table:

	Number of children in receipt of CEA			
Financial years	*Craigiehall Camp*	*Redford Barracks*	*Dreghorn Barracks*	*Total*
2007-08	20	15	5	40
2008-09	20	10	—	30
2009-10	20	10	—	30
2010-11	20	15	—	35
Total	80	50	5	135

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest five, '—' represents fewer than five.

It is not possible to provide this information for earlier years as this is held on the single service legacy systems and could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is also not possible to identify the proportion of children based at each site, due to the limitations of the JPA system. This is because it is not a mandatory requirement for service personnel to disclose specific details about their children unless they are submitting a claim for CEA.

Army Air Corps

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the establishment is of *(a)* helicopters by type and *(b)* fixed wing aircraft of each type of the Army Air Corps; [70302]

(2) what the establishment is of the Army Air Corps at each rank; and which bases it operates from. [70303]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The current establishment of aircraft operated by front-line and training Army Air Corps units is as follows:

Helicopter type	*Forward fleet*
Lynx	57
Apache	60
Gazelle	15
Bell 212	7
Islander/Defender (Fixed Wing)	13

The current establishment for Army Air Corps units by rank is shown in the following table. Some of the posts are 'rank-ranged' which means that a post could be filled by any of the defined ranks for that post, according to availability.

Rank	*Regular*	*Territorial Army*
Col	5	1
LtCol	17	2
Maj	63	13
Capt	158	13
Capt-Maj	20	0
Lt-Maj	20	6
Lt-Capt	17	0
Lt	2	0
WO1	31	0
W02-W01	50	0
SSgt-WO1	117	14
WO2	62	7
SSgt-WO2	30	0
SSgt	55	4

Rank	*Regular*	*Territorial Army*
Sgt-WO2	48	4
Sgt-SSgt	10	6
Sgt	135	13
Cpl-Sgt	2	0
Cpl	143	45
LCpl-Cpl	52	12
LCpl	271	124
Air Tpr-Cpl	0	51
LCpl	4	0
Air Tpr-LCpl	41	13
Air-Tpr	427	300

The locations of Army Air Corps main front-line and training units is shown in the following table:

Location	*Unit*
Aldergrove	5 Regiment AAC
Aldergrove	JHC Flying Station Aldergrove
Brunei	7 Flight AAC
Bury St Edmunds	6 Regiment AAC (V)
Dishforth	9 Regiment AAC
Gutersloh	1 Regiment AAC
Hereford	8 Flight AAC
Middle Wallop	25 Flight AAC
Middle Wallop	Army Air Corps Centre
Middle Wallop	HQ AAC
Netheravon	Air Manoeuvre Planning Team
RAF Odiham	657 Squadron AAC
RAF Shawbury	Defence Helicopter Flying School
RNAS Yeovilton	Wildcat Force
Wattisham	3 Regiment AAC
Wattisham	4 Regiment AAC
Wattisham	Air Manoeuvre Training and Advisory Team
Wattisham	HQ Wattisham Station

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings he expects to arise as a result of changing from the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) VTOL to the JSF carrier variant. [70287]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* We expect savings to arise from the lower than anticipated unit price acquisition costs, and lower than anticipated through-life support costs, of the Joint Strike Fighter carrier variant compared with the short take off vertical landing variant. The precise value of these savings remains subject to further work.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has secured source code access to the Joint Strike Fighter for non-operational UK-based upgrades or developments. [70288]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Through life capability developments and upgrades for the Joint Strike Fighter will be managed collaboratively, for which the necessary agreements are in place.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what unit price he has agreed for the Joint Strike Fighter carrier variant; [70289]

(2) how many Joint Strike Fighter carrier variants he has ordered. [70290]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* We have yet to make final decisions on the overall number of Joint Strike Fighter carrier variant aircraft we intend to order and will not do so before the next planned Strategic Defence and Security Review. The costs of the Joint Strike Fighter carrier variant will be determined at its main investment decision point. Publishing any details prior to this point would prejudice the commercial interests of the Ministry of Defence.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 644W, on defence transformation, what assessment his Department made of the likely effects of its proposed changes on local communities; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of this assessment; [70241]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect on local *(a)* schools and *(b)* services of any interval between the relocation of military personnel and their families from Redford and Dreghorn Barracks in 2014-15 and the opening of the new barracks in Kirknewton. [70399]

Mr Robathan: The comprehensive planning work needed to assess the impact of the announcements made on 18 July 2011 is now under way, including engaging and working with the Scottish Government, the local councils and other relevant bodies and agencies.

Work is also under way to plan the timing and sequencing of the Army moves. Once we have finalised these plans we will, working with the respective local councils and other interested bodies, make assessments of any effect on schools and local services. We have a shared interest in managing local issues, such as school and local services, as effectively as we can for the benefit of both the local community and for our own personnel.

I will be happy to place copies of these assessments in the Library of the House at the appropriate moment.

EDUCATION

Academies

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education who will identify academy schools at risk of *(a)* educational and *(b)* financial failure; and who will be responsible for ensuring such a school's governing body takes adequate measures for improvement. [68000]

Mr Gibb: Officials from the Department and the Young People's Learning Agency work together to ensure that academies at risk of educational or financial failure take action to achieve rapid and sustained improvement. Ministers are considering the best way to monitor academies' performance in the future, including the role to be played by the new Education Funding Agency (EFA).

Assessments: Standards

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken to ensure consistency of academic standards among examination boards. [70232]

Mr Gibb: The independent regulator of qualifications, Ofqual, has a statutory responsibility for protecting exam standards. I have therefore asked them to respond directly to my hon. Friend. A copy of Ofqual's reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Children in Care

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many looked after children were the subject of special guardianship in each local authority in England in each year since 2000; and how many such special guardianship arrangements broke down in each local authority in each year since 2000. [68230]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of looked after children who ceased to be looked after as a result of a special guardianship order is shown in the following table. The table shows information for each local authority for the years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010.

Information is not available between 2000 and 2005 as special guardianship orders were introduced on 30 December 2005. The figures shown for year ending 31 March 2006 therefore only account for the period 30 December 2005 to 31 March 2006.

Information on the number of special guardianship arrangements that have broken down is not collected centrally by the Department.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by local authority, as a result of a Special Guardianship order being granted[1, 2, 3]*, years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, coverage: England*

Numbers

	2006[4]	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England	70	750	1,130	1,230	1,260
North East	10	50	70	80	70
Darlington	0	[5]—	[5]—	10	10
Durham	[5]—	5	15	10	10
Gateshead	0	0	0	[5]—	[5]—
Hartlepool	0	0	10	15	5
Middlesbrough	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	[5]—
Newcastle Upon Tyne	0	5	[5]—	10	10
North Tyneside	0	[5]—	[5]—	10	[5]—
Northumberland	0	5	15	[5]—	5
Redcar and Cleveland	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	[5]—
South Tyneside	[5]—	5	[5]—	[5]—	5
Stockton-On-Tees	0	5	5	[5]—	[5]—
Sunderland	0	5	10	10	10
North West	10	130	220	230	250
Blackburn with Darwen	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	5
Blackpool	0	[5]—	5	[5]—	[5]—
Bolton	[5]—	[5]—	15	15	10
Bury	[5]—	5	10	10	20
Cheshire	0	10	[5]—	[5]—	[6]—
Cheshire East	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—
Cheshire West & Chester	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	5
Cumbria	[5]—	10	15	10	15
Halton	0	0	5	[5]—	0
Knowsley	0	[5]—	10	10	5
Lancashire	[5]—	10	25	40	20
Liverpool	0	15	25	10	10
Manchester	0	10	25	35	45
Oldham	0	[5]—	10	10	[5]—
Rochdale	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	5	10
Salford	0	[5]—	5	15	20
Sefton	[5]—	10	5	[5]—	5
St Helens	0	[5]—	10	[5]—	10
Stockport	0	0	5	[5]—	[5]—
Tameside	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Trafford	0	0	[5]—	5	[5]—
Warrington	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Wigan	0	10	10	20	20
Wirral	0	15	25	15	25

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by local authority, as a result of a Special Guardianship order being granted[1, 2, 3], years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, coverage: England

Numbers

	2006[4]	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Yorkshire and The Humber	10	50	80	100	120
Barnsley	0	0	10	10	[5]—
Bradford	0	[5]—	[5]—	0	[5]—
Calderdale	[5]—	5	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Doncaster	0	10	10	[5]—	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	0	[5]—	0	5	[5]—
Kirklees	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Leeds	[5]—	25	35	30	25
North East Lincolnshire	[5]—	0	0	0	[5]—
North Lincolnshire	0	[5]—	[5]—	10	5
North Yorkshire	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	20
Rotherham	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	10
Sheffield	0	0	5	15	10
Wakefield	[5]—	0	[5]—	10	[5]—
York	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	5
East Midlands	0	30	60	60	70
Derby	0	[5]—	10	5	[5]—
Derbyshire	0	[5]—	5	[5]—	[5]—
Leicester	0	[5]—	5	5	15
Leicestershire	0	10	10	10	5
Lincolnshire	0	[5]—	[5]—	10	10
Northamptonshire	0	10	10	15	[5]—
Nottingham	0	[5]—	15	5	20
Nottinghamshire	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Rutland	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	0
West Midlands	[5]—	80	90	100	110
Birmingham	[5]—	10	25	30	30
Coventry	0	10	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Dudley	0	0	[5]—	0	[5]—
Herefordshire	0	[5]—	5	0	[5]—
Sandwell	0	20	[5]—	[5]—	10
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	0
Solihull	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Staffordshire	0	20	20	20	10
Stoke-On-Trent	[5]—	10	[5]—	15	20
Telford and Wrekin	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Walsall	0	0	[5]—	5	[5]—
Warwickshire	[5]—	[5]—	10	10	10
Wolverhampton	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	5
Worcestershire	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	
East of England	[5]—	50	100	110	110
Bedfordshire	0	5	15	[5]—	[6]—
Bedford Borough	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—
Central Bedfordshire	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[5]—
Cambridgeshire	0	[5]—	5	5	15
Essex	0	10	20	25	25
Hertfordshire	0	15	10	10	20
Luton	0	[5]—	5	10	10
Norfolk	0	0	[5]—	10	5
Peterborough	0	5	10	5	5
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	10	[5]—
Suffolk	[5]—	10	20	10	10
Thurrock	0	0	5	15	10

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by local authority, as a result of a Special Guardianship order being granted[1, 2, 3], years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, coverage: England

Numbers

	2006[4]	2007	2008	2009	2010
London	30	170	270	300	270
Inner London	10	100	170	180	150
Camden	5	10	20	10	15
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	0	10	20	10	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	[5]—	10	25	20	15
Haringey	0	5	20	10	15
Islington	0	10	5	25	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	5	10	[5]—
Lambeth	[5]—	[5]—	10	30	20
Lewisham	0	10	10	10	[5]—
Newham	0	10	10	10	20
Southwark	[5]—	10	10	25	15
Tower Hamlets	0	15	15	10	10
Wandsworth	0	5	10	5	25
Westminster	0	[5]—	15	[5]—	[5]—
Outer London	10	70	90	120	110
Barking and Dagenham	0	[5]—	15	[5]—	10
Barnet	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	5	5
Bexley	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Brent	[5]—	[5]—	10	15	10
Bromley	0	[5]—	[5]—	10	[5]—
Croydon	0	5	[5]—	[5]—	10
Ealing	0	[5]—	10	15	15
Enfield	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	[5]—
Greenwich	[5]—	10	10	20	15
Harrow	0	0	[5]—	5	[5]—
Havering	0	[5]—	[5]—	5	5
Hillingdon	0	[5]—	[5]—	5	0
Hounslow	[5]—	10	10	15	5
Kingston Upon Thames	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Merton	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	5
Redbridge	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	[5]—
Richmond Upon Thames	0	0	0	[5]—	[5]—
Sutton	0	[5]—	10	[5]—	0
Waltham Forest	0	[5]—	10	[5]—	5
South East	10	130	180	170	170
Bracknell Forest	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	0
Brighton and Hove	[5]—	5	10	5	10
Buckinghamshire	[5]—	[5]—	10	[5]—	[5]—
East Sussex	0	[5]—	10	5	10
Hampshire	[5]—	20	30	25	25
Isle of Wight	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	5
Kent	0	25	30	20	20
Medway Towns	0	5	15	10	10
Milton Keynes	[5]—	10	[5]—	5	5
Oxfordshire	0	5	15	15	15
Portsmouth	0	[5]—	0	15	5
Reading	0	10	5	10	[5]—
Slough	0	5	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Southampton	0	[5]—	0	0	0
Surrey	[5]—	5	35	25	25
West Berkshire	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	0
West Sussex	[5]—	10	10	10	25
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	[5]—	0	5	[5]—
Wokingham	0	[5]—	0	[5]—	0

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March by local authority, as a result of a Special Guardianship order being granted[1, 2, 3], years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, coverage: England

Numbers

	2006[4]	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
South West	[5]—	60	60	90	100
Bath and North East Somerset	0	5	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Bournemoulh	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	5	0
Bristol, City of	0	10	10	10	20
Cornwall	0	10	10	10	15
Devon	[5]—	10	10	20	25
Dorset	0	[5]—	0	5	[5]—
Gloucestershire	0	5	5	0	10
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Plymouth	0	10	[5]—	10	10
Poole	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	0
Somerset	0	[5]—	[5]—	10	[5]—
South Gloucestershire	0	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Swindon	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Torbay	0	0	0	0	5
Wiltshire	0	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] Special Guardianship orders were introduced on 30 December 2005. Consequently figures for year ending 31 March 2006 only account for the last three months of the data collection year.

[5] Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

[6] Not applicable.

Note:

To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. National and regions level figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest five .

Source:

SSDA 903

GCE A-level: Mathematics

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher achieved one of those grades in *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* a science in the latest period for which figures are available. [69124]

Mr Gibb: The information for 2010 A-level achievements is in the following table:

	Number/ Percentage
Number of students taking A levels	267,345
Number of students achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher	54,390
Percentage of students achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher	20.3
Number of students achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher who achieved one of those grades in mathematics	25,864
Percentage of students achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher who achieved one of those grades in mathematics	47.6
Number of students achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher who achieved one of those grades in science	25,765
Percentage of students achieving A-level grades of AAB or higher who achieved one of those grades in science	47.4

Notes:

1. Students get counted once at their highest grade in each subject category.
2. Science includes biology, chemistry, physics and other sciences, i.e. science single award, electronics, environmental sciences, geology and science in society.
3. The figures in this answer are derived from the final data collected in April 2011 for the 2010 Performance tables.

GCSE

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of Year 11 pupils were entered for a *(a)* GCSE in (i) history, (ii) geography, (iii) a modern foreign language, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry, (vi) biology, (vii) science, (viii) English, (ix) English literature and (x) mathematics, *(b)* OCR National Level 2 in ICT and *(c)* a diploma in digital applications at each academy in academic year 2009-10; [69282]

(2) what proportion of Year 11 pupils eligible for free school meals were entered for a *(a)* GCSE in (i) history, (ii) geography, (iii) a modern foreign language, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry, (vi) biology, (vii) Science, (viii) English, (ix) English literature and (x) mathematics, *(b)* OCR National Level 2 in ICT and *(c)* a diploma in digital applications at each academy in academic year 2009-10; [69283]

(3) what proportion of Year 11 academy pupils were entered for a *(a)* GCSE in (i) history, (ii) geography, (iii) a modern foreign language, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry, (vi) biology, (vii) science, (viii) English, (ix) English literature and (x) mathematics, *(b)* OCR National Level 2 in ICT and *(c)* a diploma in digital applications in academic year 2009-10; [69289]

(4) what proportion of Year 11 academy pupils who were eligible for free school meals were entered for a *(a)* GCSE in (i) history, (ii) geography, (iii) a modern foreign language, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry, (vi) biology, (vii) science, (viii) English, (ix) English literature and (x) mathematic, *(b)* OCR National Level 2 in ICT and *(c)* a diploma in digital applications in academic year 2009-10; [69290]

(5) what proportion of key stage four exam entries by students who were eligible for free school meals were in *(a)* academic non-applied GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications equivalent to A* to C GCSEs for each school with academy status in academic year 2009-10; [69284]

(6) what proportion of key stage four exam entries were in *(a)* academic non-applied GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications equivalent to A* to C GCSEs for each school with academy status in academic year 2009-10; [69285]

(7) what proportion of exam entries that achieved GCSE grades A* to C or the equivalent were in *(a)* academic non-applied GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications equivalent to A* to C GCSEs in each academy school in academic year 2009-10; [69286]

(8) what proportion of exam entries by pupils who were eligible for free school meals and who achieved GCSE grades A* to C or the equivalent at each school with academy status were in *(a)* academic non-applied GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications equivalent to A* to C GCSEs in academic year 2009-10; [69287]

(9) what proportion of key stage 4 examination entries for pupils eligible for free school meals consisted of academic non-applied GCSEs in each academy in academic year 2009-10; [69292]

(10) what proportion of year 11 academy pupils achieved at least *(a)* five A* to C GCSEs, not including any other qualification judged to be equivalent and *(b)* five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics but not including any other qualification judged equivalent to GSCEs in each academy in academic year 2009-10; and what proportion of pupils were entitled to free school meals in each such case. [69288]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of key stage 4 exam entries consisted of academic non-applied GCSEs in each school that has been replaced by an academy in the last year of each such school's existence; and what the name is of each academy that has replaced a school. [69291]

Mr Gibb: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Reading

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Reading West constituency and *(b)* Reading achieved a rating of (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate in their Ofsted inspection in each of the last five years. [70802]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Miriam Rosen, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 6 September 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Since 2005, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgments made by inspectors in section 5 inspections, including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school.

Maintained schools inspected under section 5 include nursery, primary, secondary (including academies and city technology colleges), special schools and pupil referral units.

Tables A to F show the number of maintained schools judged to be outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection during each academic year between 2005/06 and the end of the spring term 2010/11 inclusive in the Reading West Constituency, Reading local authority and England as a whole.

Statistics covering the outcomes of all inspections carried out in each academic year since 2005/06 can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/advanced-resources-search/results/%2A/all/all/any/200/any?solrsort=im_search_date_mktime%20desc

The most recent official statistics release covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out during the autumn and spring terms 2010/11 were released on 15 June 2011 and can be accessed at the same link. Outcomes of inspections carried out during the full academic year 2010/11 are due to be published in November 2011.

In September 2009 Ofsted implemented a policy of more proportionate inspection using risk assessment and deliberately set out to inspect a greater proportion of previously satisfactory or inadequate schools and a smaller proportion of previously good or outstanding schools. This led to a skew in the sample of schools inspected and means that comparisons between years should be treated with caution as some differences are due to the different sample of schools inspected during the different periods.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Tables A to F: Overall effectiveness judgments for schools inspected under section 5 in the Reading West constituency[1], Reading local authority[2] and England in each academic year since 2005/06 (number of schools)

Table A

			Overall effectiveness			
Academic year	*Area*	*Total inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2005/06	Reading West constituency	12	2	7	1	2
	Reading local authority	15	3	5	5	2
	England	6,128	648	2,933	2,063	484

Table B

			Overall effectiveness			
Academic year	*Area*	*Total inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2006/07	Reading West constituency	14	0	5	7	2
	Reading local authority	19	1	6	10	2
	England	8,323	1,150	3,899	2,810	464

Table C

			Overall effectiveness			
Academic year	*Area*	*Total inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2007/08	Reading West constituency	15	2	5	7	1
	Reading local authority	19	2	7	8	2
	England	7,866	1,146	3,838	2,507	375

Table D

			Overall effectiveness			
Academic year	*Area*	*Total inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2008/09	Reading West constituency	16	4	8	3	1
	Reading local authority	18	6	7	5	0
	England	7,065	1,327	3,512	1,955	271

Table E

			Overall effectiveness			
Academic year	*Area*	*Total inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2009/10	Reading West constituency	13	1	4	6	2
	Reading local authority	18	2	5	10	1
	England	6,171	782	2,631	2,281	477

Table F

			Overall effectiveness			
Academic year	*Area*	*Total inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2010/11 (autumn and spring terms only)	Reading West constituency	7	3	2	2	0
	Reading local authority	10	3	4	3	0
	England	4,062	408	1,805	1,592	257

[1] Reading West constituency falls across two local authorities: Reading and West Berkshire.

[2] Reading local authority encompasses parts of the constituencies of Reading East and Reading West.

Teachers: Pensions

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the level of employers' contribution for academy school pension funds will be the same as that for other schools; and if he will make a statement. [68805]

Mr Gibb: Academies pay the same level of employers' contribution for teachers, to the Teachers' Pension Scheme, as all other employers within the scheme. The employer contribution rate is currently 14.1%.

Academies are required to offer Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) membership to all non-teaching staff. The scheme's framework is set out in the LGPS regulations. It is administered by different local pension funds and so employer contributions can vary. However, the LGPS regulations state "pension authorities should have regard to the desirability of maintaining as nearly constant a common rate across employers as possible".

TREASURY

Air Force: Military Bases

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department, *(c)* political advisers and *(d)* civil servants have discussed the future of RAF bases within the context of the Defence Transformation review. [70283]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: Treasury Ministers, political advisers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Banks: EU Action

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the European Commission's proposed Capital Requirements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [69730]

Mr Hoban: On 20 July 2011, the European Commission adopted proposals on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms, which will replace the current Capital Requirements Directive with a regulation and a directive. The first is the draft regulation on prudential requirements and the second is the draft directive on the access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms. I refer the hon. Member to my Explanatory Memorandum on the Commission's proposals, which has been deposited today, of which copies will be available in the Library.

Child Tax Credit

Mrs Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 461W, on habitual residence, what level of child tax credit is available in each other EU member state; whether the child tax credit helpline makes language provision for claimants calling from other EU member states; what plans he has to record tax credits paid to non-UK residents; what estimate he has made of the amount of child tax credit overpaid to non-UK residents; what mechanism is in place for recovering such overpaid child tax credits once the recipients have returned to their home country; and how much has been reclaimed in overpaid child tax credit from non-UK residents following their return to their home country. [69160]

Justine Greening: Information about the level of child tax credit payable in respect of children resident in other member states is available only at disproportionate cost. This is because the rate of award will vary from case to case depending on the income of claimants, whether child tax credit is payable at the appropriate UK rate or as part of a UK family benefit supplement in those cases where entitlement to family benefit arises in more than one member state; for example, where the parents are working and insured in two different member states.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) encourages customers to ask a member of the family or trusted friend to provide help with interpretation where appropriate, but HMRC Contact Centres offer language/interpretation services if customers need assistance. Further details about these services can be found online at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/contactus/particular-needs.htm#4

HM Revenue and Customs maintains a database that records the number of ongoing child benefit awards under EC Regulations. The database is currently being updated to provide comparable data about child tax credit awards.

The EC Social Security Coordinating Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009 contain cross-border recovery provisions which allow for one EEA member state to recover overpayments on behalf of another member state, either from arrears of benefit, deduction from ongoing payment of benefit or by instalments if benefit is not in payment. The regulations also provide for enforcement action to be taken through the courts of the country in which the person is now residing, subject to the domestic rules in force in that country. However, information about the amount of child tax credit overpaid to, or recovered from, non-UK residents could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a timetable for the commencement of compensation payments to those categories of Equitable Life policy holders who have not yet begun to receive compensation, together with an indication of the size of the payments to be made; and if he will make a statement. [70707]

Mr Hoban: Payments began on the 30 June, and hundreds of payments have been made to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the scheme's complex payment processes are refined further.

Payments will be made in accordance with the profile set out at the spending review settlement—with £1 billion allocated to the scheme in the first three years of this spending review—and the Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments' recommendations on the prioritisation of payments.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments he has made to Equitable Life policy holders; and what further payments he plans to make in 2011. [70730]

Mr Hoban: Payments began on 30 June, and hundreds of payments have been made to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the scheme's complex payment processes are refined further.

Payments will be made in accordance with the prioritisation criteria set out in the scheme rules, available at:

http://equitablelifepaymentscheme.independent.gov.uk/resources/elps_main_doc_final.htm

Eurostar: Sterling

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek an explanation from the operator of Eurostar on the reasons for its refusal to accept British currency from customers seeking to purchase refreshments on its services. [70919]

Mr Hoban: It would not be appropriate for Government to comment on a corporate policy decision. Eurostar has announced that, in response to customer feedback, restrictions of the use of sterling cash will not be taken forward.

Excise Duties: Wines

Mel Stride: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to introduce a sliding scale on rates in excise duty for wine production similar to that for beer production. [69412]

Justine Greening: There are no plans to introduce a sliding scale on rates for wine duty which are similar to that for beer. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review as part of the Budget process.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 26 May 2011 regarding his constituent Mr Simon Licence. [70734]

Justine Greening: The hon. Member's letter regarding his constituent Mr Simon Licence, has been transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

National Insurance Contributions: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many businesses in Northern Ireland have participated in the national insurance contribution holiday since September 2010; [69425]

(2) how many businesses in East Antrim constituency have participated in the national insurance contribution holiday since September 2010. [69426]

Mr Gauke: As of 15 August, HMRC has received 246 successful applications from businesses in Northern Ireland and 10 successful applications from businesses in East Antrim constituency.

Renewable Energy: Developing Countries

Jim McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to work with the International Monetary Fund to promote renewable energy in developing countries. [69844]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), and his officials have regular discussions with the International Monetary Fund on a range of issues. The role of the IMF is to promote international monetary co-operation and exchange rate stability, facilitate the balanced growth of international trade, and provide resources to help members in balance of payments difficulties or to assist with poverty reduction.

Given the potential adverse effects of continuing with non-renewable sources of energy—both economically and environmentally—the IMF has an interest in ensuring that developing countries take a sustainable approach to these issues as part of their broader economic strategy.

More broadly, the UK is working to encourage the development of renewable energy technologies through the World Bank and other multilateral development banks.

Tax Evasion: Criminal Proceedings

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many prosecutions for tax evasion of *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals there have been in each year since 1990; and how many convictions led to (i) imprisonment and (ii) fines in excess of (A) £10,000, (B) £100,000 and (C) £1,000,000 in each category in each such year. [70377]

Mr Gauke: The majority of tax evasion cases are dealt with using cost-effective civil settlement procedures.

A breakdown of prosecutions for tax evasion between individuals and those related to companies or organised criminal attacks is available only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the total numbers of cases prosecuted for income tax, corporation tax, VAT, excise and other tax offences are set out in the following table for the available years. Cases may relate to one or a number of persons.

	Cases
2006-07	389
2007-08	416
2008-09	340
2009-10	237
2010-11	385

Details of sentences are not held centrally and are available only at disproportionate cost.

HMRC is not the prosecuting authority. Cases are referred to, but prosecutions are undertaken by the relevant independent prosecuting authorities. Working in partnership with those authorities, HMRC expects to deliver significant year on year increases in prosecutions as part of the reinvestment package announced in the 2010 spending review.

VAT: Golf

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend the Value Added Tax regulations so that charges levied on golf clubs operated by proprietors are the same as those levied on non-profit making clubs; and if he will make a statement. [70918]

Mr Hoban: The Principal VAT directive, which governs the application of VAT in the European Union, requires member states to apply a VAT exemption to certain activities in the public interest, including supplies of sporting services by non-profit making organisations. Subscription fees charged by non-profit-making golf clubs are therefore exempt from VAT. The exemption does not extend to subscription fees received by proprietary (profit-making) clubs nor is there any scope to extend it in this way.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business Links: Manpower

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Business Link advisers were working in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in May 2010. [67852]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The regional development agencies who manage the Business Link regional service in England have reported the following levels of Business Link advisers were working in each region at end March 2010 as follows:

Number of Business Link advisers (FTE)

Region	*Position at end March 2010*
East of England	112
East midlands	93
London	51
North-east	138
North-west	225
South-east	199
South-west	130
West midlands	261
Yorkshire and Humber	223
Total	1,432

(b) The Regional Development Agencies do not hold the information requested at a parliamentary constituency level.

Business Links: Training

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* training and *(b)* professional development has been provided to Business Link advisers; and how these have been accredited. [67478]

Mr Prisk: The nine regional Business Link advisory services in England have supported their Business Link advisers through formal training to gain accreditation against a National Occupational Standard (e.g. SFEDI Business Link Broker standard). In addition, where their role involves offering specialist advice (e.g. finance, innovation, skills), they are further supported to achieve relevant professional qualifications or accreditation of competence.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many hours each business mentor is expected to provide *(a)* per week and *(b)* per month to the Business Mentoring Scheme. [67477]

Mr Prisk: No requirements have been set to dictate or to restrict the number of hours each business mentor is expected to provide. The general rule of principle—and a Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (the sector skills body for enterprise and enterprise support) recommendation—is that a volunteer mentor should have no more than three mentoring relationships at any one time. However, this can vary according to the policy of the mentoring organisation, the type of mentoring being offered, the geography involved and the needs of the small business. Ultimately, the frequency of contact will be agreed between mentor and mentee. Full-time or professional mentors will be able to take on more mentees as time permits.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what training *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be provided to business mentors under the Business Mentoring Scheme; and how this training has been or will be accredited. [67479]

Mr Prisk: The type of training for individual mentors will be a matter for the mentoring organisation to which they belong and vary according to the operating model of the organisation, the type of mentoring being delivered and the experience of the mentor. The majority of mentoring organisations train their mentors, and SFEDI—a key provider of enterprise training—offers a range of the mentoring courses. Indeed all bank mentors go through one of SFEDI's enterprise mentoring courses.

All of the organisations available via mentorsme.org have been assessed by the British Banker's Association to ensure that they meet certain quality standards, including a programme of training and development of mentors and having a robust process for identifying and matching mentees.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information he plans to collect on the *(a)* number and *(b)* size of businesses taking up advice through the Business Mentoring Scheme; and when he plans to publish this information. [67480]

Mr Prisk: Mentorsme.co.uk, Britain's first online mentoring gateway, was launched on 4 July and provides a single point of access for those seeking mentoring and those seeking to be mentors, covering the whole of the UK.

Since the launch there have been over 21,303 visits and 123,000 page views. Plans for the monitoring and evaluation of the portal are currently being agreed with the British Bankers Association.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process will be followed to appoint mentors under the Business Mentoring Scheme. [67792]

Mr Prisk: People can become mentors by joining an established mentoring organisation such as those now available on mentorsme.co.uk. The site currently includes approximately 40 mentoring organisations providing access to around 10,000 mentors. All of these organisations have signed up to a uniform minimum standard developed by organisations across the sector. Mentoring organisations are invited to register their interest in becoming part of the mentoring network via the website:

http://www.mentorsme.co.uk/about

and must complete a questionnaire which allows them to be screened to ensure they meet certain quality standards.

The site also allows business professionals to offer their services as a business mentor via the mentoring organisations listed. All of these organisations will have their own quality assurance processes and recruitment processes for potential mentors.

Overseas Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what legal advice he has received on the eligibility of EU students *(a)* to the National Scholarship Programme and *(b)* for fee waivers; and if he will make a statement. [69053]

Mr Willetts: Legal advice obtained by the Department is confidential and the subject of legal professional privilege.

EU students are only eligible for National Scholarship Programme awards that are related to fees.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the value of bids which were successful in Round 2 of the Regional Growth Fund was for each administrative English region. [70913]

Mr Prisk: Decisions on Round 2 bids have not yet been made as bids are being assessed. We expect to make announcements on successful bids in the autumn.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date he will complete the process of validation of successful bids for the Regional Growth Fund. [70914]

Mr Prisk: We do not have dates yet for the completion of validation process of successful bids for the Regional Growth Fund. Over 490 bids have been received in Round 2 of the Regional Growth Fund. Bids are being assessed and will be forwarded to the Ministerial Panel before decisions can be announced in the autumn.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department are working primarily on validation of successful bids for the Regional Growth Fund. [70917]

Mr Prisk: There are 11 (full-time equivalent) officials drawn from Government Departments who are based in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and working primarily on the assessment of bids received in Round 2 of the Regional Growth Fund.

Students: Lone Parents

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Minister for Women and Equalities and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the eligibility of lone parents for fee waiver or remission following the Government's proposed changes to fees for courses. [70915]

Mr Davey: None.

CABINET OFFICE

Mortality Rates

Dr Poulter: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* life expectancy, *(b)* cancer survival rate and *(c)* infant mortality rate was for the five (i) most and (ii) least prosperous primary care trust areas in England in each year since 1997. [68222]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) life expectancy, (b) cancer survival rate and (c) infant mortality rate was for (i) the five wealthiest primary care trust areas in England and (ii) the five poorest primary care trust areas in England in each year since 1997. [68222]

There is currently no indicator available for the wealth of the population of primary care organisations in England, and an individual's wealth is not recorded at either death or cancer registration. However, there is an income deprivation indicator available for primary care organisations, based on the percentage of the population of each area living in low income families reliant on means tested benefits[1]. This indicator has been used as a proxy for defining wealthy and poor areas in this answer, although it should be noted that populations and families could be wealthy but have a low income and vice versa.

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three-year rolling averages and are available for primary care organisations, from 2001-03 to 2007-09, for males and females separately. Table 1 provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) males and (b) females living in (i) the five primary care organisations with the lowest percentage of the population living in low income families, and (ii) the five primary care organisations with the highest percentage of the population living in low income families.

One-year cancer survival index figures are available for individual years 1996 to 2006, all cancers combined, persons resident in each primary care organisation, for patients diagnosed during 1996-2006 and followed up to the end of 2007. Table 2 provides one-year survival index figures for all cancers combined for persons living in (i) the five primary care organisations with the lowest percentage of the population living in low income families, and (ii) the five primary care organisations with the highest percentage of the population living in low income families.

Table 3 provides infant mortality rates for each year from 1997 to 2009 (the latest year available), for (i) the five primary care organisations with the lowest percentage of the population living in low income families, and (ii) the five primary care organisations with the highest percentage of the population living in low income families.

Copies of Tables 1 to 3 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

[1] This small area indicator was developed by the Association of Public Health Observatories, on behalf of the Department of Health, for Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The indicator is based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2010) income domain score.

BBC Monitoring

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when his Department will issue a response to the Intelligence and Security Committee Annual Report 2010-11 in respect of BBC Monitoring. [68253]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office plans to issue a response to the ISC's Annual Report on 14 September.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent meetings have taken place between members of his ministerial team and officials working in his Department and representatives of the BBC regarding funding for BBC Monitoring. [68254]

Mr Maude: There was intensive consultation on funding between Cabinet Office and BBC Monitoring (BBCM) teams up to the beginning of April when the funding profile for BBCM over its transition (2011-12, 2012-13) to BBC Main from 2013-14 was finalised. Since funding has now been settled the focus of ongoing consultations is now on making the transition work for BBCM and for its customers in Government.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of the effects on local economies of the implementation of the outcomes of the 2010 spending review in respect of funding for BBC Monitoring. [68255]

Mr Maude: The outcome of the 2010 spending review was that BBC Monitoring (BBGM) would transition to BBC Main from 2013-14. The BBC will become responsible for how and from where agreed services are delivered.

Civil Contingencies Secretariat

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will review the effectiveness and efficiency of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat. [70165]

Mr Maude: The effectiveness and efficiency of all teams in the Cabinet Office is monitored through the Cabinet Office's annual business planning and performance process. There are no plans to conduct a specific review into the work of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

Civil Service Live Conference

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse was of Civil Service Live on 5-7 July 2011. [69112]

Mr Maude: Civil Service Live events are owned and managed by the private company Dods (the publisher of Civil Service World).

The events are free for civil servants to attend. There will have been some travel and subsistence costs for delegates. These will have followed the travel and subsistence guidelines set by Departments.

Common Good Communications Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress he has made on implementing the proposal for a Common Good Communications Council; and if he will make a statement. [68282]

Mr Maude: Preparatory meetings have been held between officials and public sector broadcasters.

Corruption

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether account is taken of *(a)* convictions for corruption and *(b)* breaches of rules in (i) the UK and (ii) the EU when deciding on the award of Government contracts. [69736]

Mr Maude: Much public procurement is governed by European Union Procurement Directives, implemented in UK legislation. These rules explicitly require bidders to be excluded if they or their directors have been convicted of certain offences, including corruption. Exclusion is permitted for other wrong doing, including other criminal offences or gross professional misconduct.

Creative Industries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the creative industries are included in the Office for National Statistics economic indicators. [68532]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether creative industries are captured in any economic indicators produced by the ONS. [68532]

Economic indicators are routinely published according to the Standard Industrial Classification 2003. The concept of the creative industries is not easily constructed from the SIC and so economic indicators are not regularly published as an aggregate. However, an article was published on the ONS website in early 2011 which detailed the nine main industries that form the UK's creative sector, as identified by the Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS).

This article can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/search/index.html?page
Size=50&newquery=creative+industries

Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many times officials in the Office of Government Commerce met representatives of *(a)* Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, *(b)* Innisfree Ltd and *(c)* 3i Infrastructure plc between 1 January 2008 and 16 June 2011. [68705]

Mr Maude: There are no records of meetings between officials in the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and representatives of *(a)* Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, *(b)* Innisfree Ltd and *(c)* 3i Infrastructure plc between January 2008 and June 2010, when OGC was absorbed into the Efficiency and Reform Group.

UKTI/Business Link: Manpower

Alan Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has issued directions to staff in *(a)* UK Trade & Investment and *(b)* Business Links on communications with hon. Members about potential (i) job losses and (ii) organisational changes within each organisation. [69607]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Business and Enterprise, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk), on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 609-10W.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69273]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office and its NDPBs calculate savings on their procurement expenditure by comparing (a) the total annual spend for each category of goods and services with the equivalent expenditure for 2009-10 and (b) current prices with previous prices paid for commodities where existing contracts have been renegotiated or new contracts put in place since May 2010.

Director of Public Prosecutions

Helen Goodman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 262W, on Director of Public Prosecutions, whether Lord Macdonald of River Glaven cleared his contract with News Corporation with the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. [68787]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 891W.

Financial Services: Foreign Workers

David Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has undertaken an impact assessment of jobs being offshored by private companies holding public sector contracts in the next five years. [68601]

Mr Maude: The Government have not undertaken any impact assessment of the number of jobs delivering public sector contracts likely to be offshored in the next five years. It is for suppliers to determine the number and location of jobs required to enable them to fulfil any given contract.

David Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has estimated how many jobs are likely to be offshored by companies holding Government contracts over the next five years. [68602]

Mr Maude: The Government do not hold this information as it is for suppliers to determine the number and location of jobs required to enable them to fulfil any given contract.

Freedom of Information

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to *(a)* the publication by the Prime Minister of his meetings with media executives and *(b)* paragraph 74 of the Third Report of the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09, on written parliamentary questions, HC 952, if he will publish a list of each meeting the Rt. hon. Member for Doncaster North (Ed Miliband) held with newspaper and media proprietors, editors and senior media executives, while he was Minister in the Cabinet Office, disclosing the same information as if a request had been submitted under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provisions and using the same criteria and methodology as the Prime Minister in compiling his list. [69017]

Mr Maude: It is not for this Government to account for the actions of the previous Administration.

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Information Commissioner's office on steps to improve his Department's performance in responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; [69792]

(2) how many subject access requests his Department has received in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [69780]

(3) how many requests his Department has received to conduct internal reviews of requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [69779]

(4) how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what proportion of such requests were answered within 20 working days; [69778]

(5) how many people are employed by his Department to monitor and respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; what level of training each such member of staff has received; and if he will make a statement. [69777]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Officials from the Cabinet Office met with the Deputy Commissioner on 11 May to discuss the improvements necessary when responding to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and, following the undertaking agreed with the Information Commissioner on 22 June, on 4 August to discuss the steps being taken to put these measures in place and the progress made in improving the handling of requests.

Requests for information held by the Cabinet Office are dealt with by the most appropriate area within the Department. The Cabinet Office operates a centralised system for managing cases and for authorising disclosure of information involving a team of five staff. All people in the team receive training in dealing with handling information requests

http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/training_of_foi_staff_in_cabinet

Guidance on the handling of requests for information is available to all staff on the departmental intranet and is supplemented by advice by the central team as necessary.

Statistics on the implementation of FOI in central Government, including the Cabinet Office are available on the Ministry of Justice website

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

The Cabinet Office received 44 subject access requests for information under the Data Protection Act in the period 1 July 2010-31 July 2011.

Government Departments: Procurement

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress he has made on eliminating pre-qualification questionnaires for central Government procurements under £100,000. [70080]

Mr Maude: 14 out of 17 Departments have confirmed that they have eliminated the use of pre-qualification questionnaires for procurements below £100,000. A further Department will have eliminated their use by the end of September 2011. Work is under way with the two remaining Departments, which have additional security requirements to consider, to implement necessary changes to their pre-qualification processes.

Licensing

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has considered the merits of fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) licensing obligations in respect of procurement policy Action Note 3/11, issued on 31 January 2011. [70111]

Mr Maude: The Government require that their ICT should be built on open standards, wherever possible, to improve competition and avoid lock-in to a particular technology or supplier.

Fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) specifications may present some difficulties for the open source software development model in terms of patents and royalties. To deliver a level playing field for both open source and proprietary software, open standards are needed.

Public Bodies

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place in the Library an updated list of non-departmental public bodies and their parent Departments. [69791]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The Cabinet Office publishes a list of non-departmental public bodies and their parent Departments in its publication "Public Bodies". The latest version will be published in due course taking into account any changes that may occur as a result of the Public Bodies Review and proposed legislation.

Andrew Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of savings to the public purse from the abolition of public bodies since May 2010; and what estimate he has made of savings to be realised in the next year. [70093]

Mr Maude: We estimate that cumulative administrative savings of £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period. When reductions in programme and capital spend are taken into account, we estimate that total spending through public bodies will be reduced by at least £11 billion per year by 2014-15, a cumulative amount of £30 billion over the spending review period.

Departments are currently refining their estimates, as implementation plans develop.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the timetable for negotiations on changes to public service pension schemes. [70562]

Mr Maude: I meet regularly with my ministerial colleagues including those in the Treasury to discuss a range of issues, including various aspects of the reform of public service pension schemes.

Public Sector: Procurement

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on requiring small and medium-sized enterprises to provide pre-qualification data only once for Government procurements in common commodities. [70043]

Mr Maude: The Government Dynamic Marketplace pilot, launched on 19 July provides a single, simple registration process for suppliers:

https://register4ukgov.procserveonline.com

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department has made regarding use of the open procedure for large central Government procurements. [70065]

Mr Maude: Departments are currently piloting the use of the open procurement procedure in 12 procurements, in order to assess the impact of a broader range of suppliers submitting tenders for Government business.

We will collate emerging findings from these procurements to assess the impact of using this procurement procedure on both buyers and suppliers.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) which *(a)* products and *(b)* services have been pitched successfully as a result of an SME Product Surgery; [70069]

(2) how many products and services have been pitched successfully at an SME Product Surgery organised by his Department since the scheme's inception; [70070]

(3) what the monetary value has been of central Government contracts with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that were a direct result of a product or service pitched at an SME Product Surgery. [70071]

Mr Maude: The Product Surgeries are intended to promote an opportunity for constructive dialogue between innovative SMEs and Government Departments.

From over 350 submissions, the following nine SMEs were invited to present their products or services to the Innovation Launch Pad Product Surgery on 19 July:

Adinfa
Becrypt
CatN
Cambridge Temperature Concepts
Health Analytics
HotDocs
Learning Pool

MyWorkSearch

Software Europe

However, it is not possible to say that any new contracts have been or will be awarded as a direct result of any Product Surgery, as public sector contracts can only be awarded after an appropriate competitive procurement.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small and medium-sized enterprises have participated in the mystery shopper scheme. [70075]

Mr Maude: Between 11 February and 6 September, 69 small and medium-sized enterprises have participated in the mystery shopper scheme. The results for the first three months (February to May) can be seen at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/mystery-shopper

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Panel last met; and on what date it will next meet. [70079]

Mr Maude: The SME Panel last met on 29 June 2011. The next meeting is planned for 26 September.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when he last met the SME Panel to discuss the Government's progress in increasing the level of business with small and medium-sized enterprises; [70311]

(2) when he last met representatives of his Department's SME Panel to discuss progress in increasing government contracts with small and medium-sized enterprises. [70041]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: I attended the first meeting of the SME Panel, held on 29 June 2011 where this was discussed.

Royalties

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the effect of procurement policy Action Note 3/11 on industries that depend on royalties. [70112]

Mr Maude: Through specifying open standards in Government ICT procurement, the Government are looking to improve interoperability, maximise efficiency and reduce cost to the taxpayer.

No formal assessment has been carried out on the effects of policy Action Note 3/11 on industries that depend on royalties or on industry that requires royalty free standards to operate. We are about to commence a review of this note and the Government are actively engaged with industry on the impact of Action Note 3/11 which is being considered alongside feedback from the UK Government Open Standards Survey and other consultations.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department carried out a cost-benefit analysis of the procurement policy Action Note 3/11 on the use of open standards when specifying ICT requirements issued on 31 January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [70115]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office did not carry out a generic cost-benefit analysis on the policy procurement note. Cost-benefit analysis should be carried out by Departments as part of the procurement process for each specific implementation.

Social Enterprises

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has any plans to review *(a)* procurement policies in relation to and *(b)* the effects of procurement decisions on social enterprises. [69377]

Mr Maude: We continue to look at new approaches to delivering public services. In the Open Public Services White Paper we have made a commitment to regularly assess the barriers to entry and exit that may prevent innovation from being achieved and hamper diversity of supply, which includes from social enterprises.

We believe public services should be open to a range of providers, including social enterprises (and SMEs) and have consulted on how this can be achieved. On 11 February we announced a set of measures to tackle barriers to SMEs in Government procurement, which will also help social enterprises. As with all Government procurement, value for money for the public purse is the over-riding imperative.

Voluntary Work

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of progress with the big society initiative. [70814]

Mr Hurd: The Government have taken significant steps towards changing the relationship between the citizen and the state by pushing down power to individuals and communities, encouraging people to take action to make the changes they want to see, and challenging public service providers to deliver better and more localised services. For example:

24 free schools are now up and running, creating choice for parents, enabling communities to set up schools that meet their needs.

National Citizen Service is delivering to thousands of young people in England; and aspires to deliver opportunities for up to 30,000 young people by next year.

The Giving White paper has set out a number of announcements to support the giving of time and money—such as AMT and payroll giving.

The Localism Bill—currently in the Lords—will devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities more control over housing and planning decisions.

45,000 public sector workers are now in mutuals, with the aspiration to have 1 million public sector workers in mutuals by 2015.

The Open Public Services White Paper has set out plans to create greater diversity in the delivery of public services by opening up the market to a greater number of providers.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the National Citizens Service pilots. [70058]

Mr Hurd: NCS is providing 16-year-olds across England with the opportunity to take part in challenging outdoor activities and to give something back to their communities. I have visited a number of the pilot programmes this summer and the feedback I have heard from the young people taking part has been overwhelmingly positive.

An independent evaluation of the NCS pilots is currently taking place and I will be able to update the House on the outcomes of that evaluation once it has concluded.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Civil Disorder

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether budgets for criminal justice agencies in 2011-12 and subsequent financial years will be reviewed in light of the public disorder in August 2011. [70127]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for the criminal justice system and my Department works closely with the Home Office and Attorney-General's Office.

As part of its regular financial and operational management, the Ministry of Justice monitors sentencing trends and prison population against the financial and capacity plans. The Department is closely monitoring the impact on its services, but the full scale of the financial implications will not be known until all offenders have been sentenced by the courts.

In relation to the police, there is no plan to review the funding settlement. The Home Office believes that although challenging the settlement they have reached for the police is both fair and manageable. There is no question that the police will have the resources to do their important work.

The CPS is currently assessing the additional costs which will be incurred as a result of the recent public disorder. Investigations and prosecutions will continue over the next two years at least and the full impact will not be known until all investigations and prosecutions are concluded.

The Ministry of Justice and CPS will continue to keep the Treasury informed about the implications for their financial position.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many letters the Government Equalities Office received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68766]

Mrs May: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 243-44W.

JUSTICE

Birmingham Prison

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the period of protection is for prison staff working in HMP Birmingham under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. [70249]

Mr Blunt: The Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (TUPE) Regulations do not specify a time limit. Therefore the protection afforded by TUPE is not time limited. Contractual terms and conditions are protected indefinitely against changes that are directly connected to the transfer, unless there is a valid economic, technical or organisational reason entailing changes in the workforce.

Civil Disorder

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what effect the public disorder in August 2011 will have on the funding of *(a)* probation, *(b)* court and *(c)* prison services in (i) the current financial year and (ii) subsequent financial years. [70121]

Mr Djanogly: The recent civil disorder will potentially impact the operational costs of the Ministry of Justice, including courts, probation, and prison services. As part of our regular financial and operational management we are monitoring sentencing trends and prison population against our financial and capacity plans. The full impact of the public disorder will not be known until all offenders have been sentenced by the courts.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many court reports were prepared on people in connection with the public disorder in August 2011 in England and Wales; [70122]

(2) how many people convicted of an offence in connection with the public disorder in August 2011 have been imprisoned; [70123]

(3) how many people arrested in connection with the public disorder in August 2011 were remanded into custody following a first hearing. [70124]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes the Chief Statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given and previous criminal history.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review sentencing terms as part of the Government's response to the recent disturbances in London and other English cities. [70270]

Mr Blunt: Sentencing decisions are entirely a matter for the courts; magistrates and judges are independent of the Government and their sentencing decisions are based on the individual circumstances of each case and offender, and the relevant sentencing guidelines. Early cases are providing a clear indication of the seriousness being attached to these particular cases by the courts.

We have established the Communities and Victims Panel to explore what lessons can be learned, both from the riots and the civic action to clear up the damage caused.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who have been (i) remanded in custody and (ii) given custodial sentences as a result of the public disorder of August 2011 are parents of dependent children; and how many children there are of each age group whose parents have been imprisoned. [70575]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes the Chief Statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given and previous criminal history.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* young people have been prosecuted and *(b)* parenting orders have been issued in connection with the public disorder of August 2011. [70813]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes the Chief Statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given and previous criminal history.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) under which Minister's authority his special advisers communicated with the Office of the Information Commissioner about a complaint relating to a Minister in his Department in July 2011; [70708]

(2) on how many occasions and on what dates his special advisers communicated with the Office of the Information Commissioner with regard to complaints about a Minister in his Department in July 2011. [70709]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Special advisers serve the Government as a whole and not just their appointing Minister. Part of their role is organising responses to press inquiries. My Special Adviser spoke with a press officer at the Office of the Information Commissioner three times last July to alert them to a number of related inquiries from *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper, and to obtain the statements they had released to the paper. The calls were followed up by three e-mails.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been of uninsured drivers in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the average penalty was in each case of conviction in each such year. [69908]

Mr Blunt: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, by sentence breakdown, the median and average fine amount and the average custodial sentence length for driving without insurance, by police force area in England and Wales, 2000 to 2010 (latest available), has been placed in the House Library.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

European Court of Human Rights

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received any interim findings from the Commission on a UK Bill of Rights on reform of the European Court of Human Rights. [70265]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement, which I have issued today. I have placed in the Library of the House copies of two letters received from Sir Leigh Lewis, the Chair of the Commission on a Bill of Rights. One of those letters contains the Commission's interim advice on reform of the European Court of Human Rights.

HM Prisons Brockhill and Latchmere House

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the estimated market value is for HM Prison Brockhill; and if he will make a statement; [70856]

(2) what proportion of the capital receipts his Department expects to realise from the sale of HM Prison Latchmere House will be retained by *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* his Department; and if he will make a statement; [70896]

(3) what capital receipts his Department expects to realise from the sale of HM Prison Latchmere House; and if he will make a statement. [70897]

Mr Blunt: The market value of HMP Latchmere House and part of HMP Hewell, formerly known as Brockhill, has not been formally assessed. The Ministry of Justice seeks to gain best value from the sale of surplus assets which will contribute to the Ministry's capital expenditure budget. Ministry of Justice expenditure will be prioritised as appropriate and will include investment in the National Offender Management Service estate and services.

Homicide: British Nationals Abroad

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* support and *(b)* assistance his Department provides to the families of victims of murder and manslaughter abroad. [70442]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: When a homicide occurs abroad the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will provide an automatic referral to Victim Support's National Homicide Service for bereaved families resident in England and Wales which provides emotional support and practical assistance. Victim Support receives £2 million from the Ministry of Justice to fund the Homicide Service. In addition to this the FCO has recently agreed to provide Victim Support with £100,000 in this and the next financial year to help support families bereaved by homicide abroad.

Human Rights Act 1998

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to introduce legislation to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998. [70539]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: On 18 March, the Government announced the establishment of a Commission to investigate the case for a UK Bill of Rights. The Commission's terms of reference set out that it should aim to report no later than by the end of 2012. We cannot prejudge the findings of the Commission and it is too early to say what the next steps might be until the Commission has reported.

Legal Aid Scheme: Nationality

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 702W, on legal aid: nationality, what consideration he has given to restricting legal aid to British nationals. [70042]

Mr Djanogly: The Government published the White Paper "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" on 15 November 2010, which set out proposals for the fundamental reform of the legal aid system and the rationale for those reforms. As set out in the White Paper, and the Consultation Response which followed in June 2011, our proposals have taken into account our domestic, European and international legal obligations, including the European convention on human rights, and a number of other factors. We have no plans to restrict the availability of legal aid based on the nationality of the claimant.

Legal Aid Scheme: West Midlands

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* Coventry, *(b)* Warwickshire and *(c)* the west midlands received legal aid in each of the last five years. [70342]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The LSC does not record the number of applications granted to individual people who apply for legal aid. Nor does it record data on the basis of the areas referred to in the question.

The LSC does record the number of "acts of assistance" provided to individuals, although one individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The information in the following tables sets out acts of assistance on the basis of parliamentary constituency areas and the LSC's regional offices, and represents the nearest matches of the LSC's data to the information requested. These figures are as at August 2011 and are unaudited so may not be directly comparable over time. Figures for 2010-11 are not yet available.

Coventry

Coventry North East constituency

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	1,147
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	622
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	197
	Crime Higher Cases	116
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	1,578
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	477
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	188
	Crime Higher Cases	155
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	1,295
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	546
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	187
	Crime Higher Cases	188
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	1,232
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	482
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	231
	Crime Higher Cases	170

Coventry South constituency

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	9,316
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	4,051
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	843
	Crime Higher Cases	689
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	7,626
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	3,736
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	719
	Crime Higher Cases	802
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	7,877
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	3,833
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	763
	Crime Higher Cases	820
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	7,544
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	3,848
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	776
	Crime Higher Cases	799

Warwickshire

North Warwickshire constituency

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	676
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	774
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	108
	Crime Higher Cases	65
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	729
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	795
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	85
	Crime Higher Cases	24
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	863
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	903
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	93
	Crime Higher Cases	51
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	808
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	935
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	102
	Crime Higher Cases	56

Nuneaton constituency

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	1,908
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	940
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	329
	Crime Higher Cases	86
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	1,421
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	1,009
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	343
	Crime Higher Cases	92
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	1,289
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	1,341
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	396
	Crime Higher Cases	91
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	1,193
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	1,051
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	457
	Crime Higher Cases	78

Rugby and Kenilworth constituency

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	1,246
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	669
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	168
	Crime Higher Cases	36
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	1,171
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	460
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	124
	Crime Higher Cases	29
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	1,225
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	483
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	60
	Crime Higher Cases	42
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	982
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	430
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	69
	Crime Higher Cases	63

Stratford-on-Avon constituency

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	124
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	327
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	179
	Crime Higher Cases	5
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	102
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	313
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	182
	Crime Higher Cases	5
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	95
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	313
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	186
	Crime Higher Cases	5
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	107
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	357
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	189
	Crime Higher Cases	5

Warwick and Leamington constituency

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	3,190
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	810
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	200
	Crime Higher Cases	254
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	2,859
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	663
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	142
	Crime Higher Cases	192
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	2,501
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	770
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	182
	Crime Higher Cases	194
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	2,289
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	792
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	182
	Crime Higher Cases	178

West Midlands

Birmingham regional office[1]

	Type of assistance	*Quantity*
2006-07	Crime Lower Claims	162,820
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	69,282
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	14,256
	Crime Higher Cases	11,897
2007-08	Crime Lower Claims	146,038
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	66,901
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	12,960
	Crime Higher Cases	12,377
2008-09	Crime Lower Claims	144,239
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	73,939
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	13,865
	Crime Higher Cases	13,038
2009-10	Crime Lower Claims	111,407
	Legal Help New Matter Starts	62,917
	Civil Representation Certificates Issued	13,155
	Crime Higher Cases	13,147

[1] Comprising the following local authority areas: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, City of Wolverhampton, County of Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire, City of Stoke-on-Trent, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Tamworth, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick, Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Redditch, Worcester, Wychavon, Wyre Forest.

NHS: Negligence

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of his plans for *(a)* legal aid and *(b)* conditional fee agreements on the level of costs payable by the Department of Health in respect of clinical negligence claims. [70267]

Mr Djanogly: An impact assessment was published alongside the response to consultation paper "Proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales". Annex B of the impact assessment on the reforms to conditional fee agreements sets out estimated savings of £50 million to the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) as a result of abolishing recoverability of success fees and after the event insurance premiums. This figure does not account for the NHSLA paying after the event premiums for policies covering the cost of expert reports in some cases; my officials are in ongoing discussions with the NHSLA and stakeholders about how the commissioning of expert reports can be improved so that, for example, joint reports can be commissioned wherever possible.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many clinical negligence cases involving claimants aged under 18 years the Legal Services Commission provided support for in each of the last three years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such cases in each such year; and how much the Commission disbursed in legal aid in respect of such cases. [70268]

Mr Djanogly: The total number of legal aid certificates and the legal aid costs of clinical negligence cases relating to claimants under 18 whose final bills were paid in each of the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table:

	Certificates closed	*Whole case costs (£ million)*
2008-09	825	7.6
2009-10	681	6.9
2010-11	587	6.3

Additionally, the number of new matters started under legal help which includes initial advice and assistance where no certificate has been granted, together with the value of those legal help claims, is shown in the following table:

Category	*Claim volume*	*Claim value (£)*
2008-09	200	52,438
2009-10	190	53,812
2010-11	165	55,679

Other costs to the public purse of clinical negligence claims relating to persons under 18, for example the costs to the national health service, are not held by the Ministry of Justice and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of prison officers to prisoners was in the prison estate in each month of *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011 to date. [70084]

Mr Blunt: Information relating to the question is provided in the following table.

NOMS Public sector prisons

Month	*Public sector prisons (officer to prisoner ratio)*[1]
2008	
31 January	1:2.9
29 February	1:2.9
31 March	1:2.8
30 April	1:2.9
31 May	1:2.9
30 June	1:2.9
31 July	1:2.9
31 August	1:2.9
30 September	1:2.9
31 October	1:2.9
30 November	1:2.9
31 December	1:2.9
2009	
31 January	1:2,8
28 February	1:2.8
31 March	1:2.8
30 April	1:2.8
31 May	1:2.8
30 June	1:2.8
31 July	1:2.9
31 August	1:2.9
30 September	1:2.9
31 October	1:2.9
30 November	1:2.9

NOMS Public sector prisons

Month	*Public sector prisons (officer to prisoner ratio)*[1]
31 December	1:2.9
2010	
31 January	1:2.9
28 February	1:2.9
31 March	1:2.9
30 April	1:3.0
31 May	1:3.0
30 June	1:3.0
31 July	1:3.0
31 August	1:3.0
30 September	1:3.0
31 October	1:3.0
30 November	1:3.0
31 December	1:2.9
2011	
31 January	1:2.9
28 February	1:2.9
31 March	1:3.0
30 April	1:3.0
31 May	1:3.0
30 June	1:3.0

[1] Officers include Prison Officers, Senior Officers and Principal Officers. Officers working within NOMS HQ are also included within the calculation.

Prison Service: Retirement

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to allow prison officers to retire at the age of 60 years; and if he will make a statement. [70272]

Mr Blunt: Prison officers are civil servants and, as such, are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The scheme pension age of members is set out in the relevant PCSPS rules. With the limited exception of some prison officers who were in post prior to 30 September 1987 and retain a "reserved right" to retire at age 55 years, the majority of civil servants, including prison officers, have a scheme pension age of 60 years.

A change to the PCSPS rules raised the scheme pension age to 65 years for all civil servants, including prison officers, who joined the scheme after 30 July 2007.

Lord Hutton's final report on the proposed reform of public service pensions recommended that a pension age of 60 might be more appropriate for employees in uniformed services to recognise the unique nature of their job. Consultation will take place on what form this takes and whom it covers as part of the reform process.

Prisoners: Parents

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who have been (i) remanded in custody and (ii) given custodial sentences are parents of dependent children; and how many children there are of each age group whose parents have been imprisoned. [70576]

Mr Blunt: Information on bail and remand held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not include all the circumstances relating to each case, and it is not possible to determine from this information if remanded defendants have dependent children. This information could be ascertained only by reference to individual court and prison files, which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Remand in Custody

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on *(a)* steps to require that pre-sentence reports consider family circumstances and *(b)* the feasibility of introducing a statutory obligation on the judiciary to check whether arrangements have been made for children whose parents or carers are remanded in custody. [70573]

Mr Blunt: Officials from a range of Departments, including the Ministry of Justice, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Department for Education, are working together to contribute to the cross-Government work to support families with multiple problems, including the children and families of offenders.

The Children Act 2004 requires inter agency co-operation to safeguard and promote the well being of the child and NOMS specifications set out that Probation Staff have a responsibility to identify the safeguarding needs of children and promote the welfare of an offender's children when preparing pre-sentence reports.

A statutory obligation on the judiciary has been considered, and been discussed at official's level with the senior judiciary and voluntary and community sector groups. Raising awareness is our main focus and a statutory obligation is not being further considered at this time.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider introducing a statutory obligation on the judiciary to inquire as to whether arrangements have been made for children whose parents or carers have been remanded in custody. [70574]

Mr Blunt: A statutory obligation on the judiciary has been considered, and been discussed at official's level with the senior judiciary and voluntary and community sector groups. Raising awareness is our main focus and a statutory obligation is not being further considered at this time.

The Children Act 2004 requires inter agency co-operation to safeguard and promote the well being of the child. Probation staff working in court or preparing pre-sentence reports have a responsibility to consider the impact of custody on an offender's children. If there is a likelihood of custody then children's services will be alerted to ensure arrangements are in place to safeguard the well being of any children.

Officials are currently working to ensure that this system of assessment and referral is as robust as possible by establishing minimum standard specifications for both pre-sentence report assessment and court practice.

Road Traffic Offences: Sentencing

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* in total and *(b)* who were illegal immigrants have received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more following a conviction for a road traffic offence in each year since 2008. [70332]

Mr Blunt: Persons found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody of 12 months or more at all courts, for road traffic offences in England and Wales in 2008 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Information held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database does not identify a defendant's immigration status.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Persons found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody of 12 months and more at all courts, for road traffic offences[1], England and Wales, 2008 to 2010[2, 3]

	2008[4]	*2009*[5]	*2010*
Found guilty	550,999	562,419	521,623
Immediate custody	7,780	6,600	5,090
of which			
12 months and more	533	476	434

[1] Includes: dangerous driving, fraud and forgery, driving after consuming drink and drugs, careless driving, accident offences, driving licence related offences, vehicle insurance offences, vehicle registration and excise offences, vehicle test offences, vehicle or part in dangerous condition, speed limit offences, neglect or traffic offences, obstruction waiting or parking offences, other summary motoring offences

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] Post publication revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions there were resulting from diagnosis of a club foot or cleft palate in 2010. [70061]

Anne Milton: In 2010, there were five abortions resulting from a primary fetal diagnosis of club foot and seven due to cleft lip and palate.

Community Nurses: Manpower

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many district nurses are employed in the NHS. [71094]

Anne Milton: The last NHS Information Centre annual census showed that there were 9,652 headcount (7,859 full-time equivalent) district nurses employed in the national health service in England.

Complementary Medicine

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on *(a)* the future of anthroposophic medicine and *(b)* the Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's review of the field; and if he will make a statement. [70704]

Mr Simon Burns: In January 2011 the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency started an informal consultation and discussions with interested parties about the future regulatory position of longstanding product licences of right, including anthroposophic products falling in that category. These discussions and feedback have highlighted a need for additional information and analysis about the position of individual products in order to inform the further development of policy. The main factors informing further work will be the viability and clarity of regulatory arrangements, proportionate public health protection, and issues of consumer choice.

Contraceptives: Coventry

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for emergency contraceptives were issued in the Coventry primary care trust area in each year since 2005. [70363]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not available. The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care provides data at sub-national level for complete calendar years from 2007. The following table shows the number of prescription items for emergency contraception (as defined by British National Formulary paragraph 7.3.5) written in Coventry primary care trust area and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom for the available complete calendar years.

	Prescription items
2007	2,321
2008	2,282
2009	2,146
2010	2,228

Source:
ePACT

These figures cover contraceptives issued on prescriptions in primary care only. Contraceptives can also be supplied without a prescription either through family planning clinics or by pharmacists under a Patient Group Direction. Emergency contraception may also be purchased by patients in pharmacies.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68953]

Mr Simon Burns: No senior civil servants were employed by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to their taking up appointment by the Department in any of the last four years.

The Department does not hold records centrally about the identities or the number of consultants involved in the delivery of services from these consultancy companies but does have the numbers of the purchase orders involved. These figures are given in the following table.

	Deloitte	*Ernst and Young*	*KPMG*	*PwC*
2008	15	32	15	54
2009	18	28	34	37
2010	13	6	9	26
2011 to date	2	0	1	6

Departmental Manpower

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people working in his Department are on secondment from *(a)* KPMG and *(b)* private health care firms. [70823]

Mr Simon Burns: As of 7 September 2011, the Department does not have anyone on secondment from KPMG nor from private health care firms.

Arrangements between the Department and consultancies such as KPMG or private health care firms would be considered as consultancy services. Any individual employed by such companies providing services to the Department, would do so in that capacity, and not by way of a secondment arrangement between the Department and their employing consultancy.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people employed in his Department have previously worked for KPMG. [70824]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's business management system does not hold information on employees' previous employment history.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made on the effect of Tier 2 visa changes on doctors undertaking specialty training. [70485]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has worked closely with the Home Office to mitigate the effects of changes to Tier 2 on speciality doctors and other health care professionals.

Currently, students completing the foundation programme switch to Tier 1 Post-Study work to undertake the required speciality training. Following the closure of this category in April 2012, students will be able to switch to Tier 2 and will not be subject to the Resident Labour Market Test.

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in the Media and Communications Department of the East of England Ambulance Services Trust; at what cost; and if he will compare those costs with those of other NHS ambulance trusts. [70736]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. Local national health service organisations are responsible for the skill mix of their work force, as they are best placed to assess their needs. The hon. Member may therefore wish to contact East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust and other ambulance trusts directly.

Health Services: West Midlands

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each hospital trust in the west midlands region has paid in compensation arising from clinical negligence in each year since 2006. [70364]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department. It is available on the national health service Litigation Authority's website under NHSLA Factsheet 5—trust and health authority claims data, at the following address:

www.nhsla.com/Publications/

Heart Diseases: Children

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of emergency ambulance and hospital services for children with acquired heart defects following the outcome of the NHS Safe and Sustainable review. [70706]

Mr Simon Burns: The Safe and Sustainable review is being conducted by the NHS National Specialised Commissioning Team. However, we have been following its progress. The review focuses on improving care for children with congenital heart disease. While paediatric surgery in some centres may cease, these centres may continue to provide specialist, non-interventional services for their local population. The review wants to ensure that as much non-surgical care is delivered as close to a child's home as possible through the development of local congenital heart networks.

No decisions have yet been made on the proposed location of specialist surgical centres. The Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts (JCPCT) is expected to make a decision by the end of the year. In making its decision, the JCPCT will consider the Ipsos MORI independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees, a health impact assessment and other relevant evidence.

Learning Disability

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the NHS and *(c)* GP consortia plan for the future needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [70039]

Paul Burstow: The Government are committed to improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities, including those with profound and complex needs.

The Operating Framework for the national health service in England for 2011-12 highlighted that health care for people with learning disabilities continues to be an area for improvement and that the NHS should ensure momentum is maintained in improving care and outcomes;

Our aim is to give general practitioners real responsibility through clinical commissioning groups to ensure that commissioning decisions are underpinned by clinical insight and knowledge of local health care needs.

The Department's contracts with the Norah Fry Research Centre to run the Confidential Inquiry into the premature and avoidable deaths of people with learning disabilities and to continue to support the Public Health Observatory in relation to people with learning disabilities currently hosted for North East Public Health Observatory have both been extended for a further two years to March 2013.

Health is a devolved matter and decisions affecting the health of people with learning disabilities is a matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

MRSA

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to bring forward legislative proposals to reduce the incidence of MRSA in milk. [70134]

Anne Milton: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency, which has responsibility for food hygiene matters, that there are no plans to introduce new legislative proposals to reduce the incidence of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in milk.

Current evidence suggests that there is a negligible food safety risk from MRSA bacteria in milk. The vast majority of milk sold for human consumption is pasteurised and this process is effective in destroying bacteria present in the milk, including any MRSA.

NHS: Finance

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* funding was allocated and *(b)* was spent per capita by the NHS in (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the north-east and (iii) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [70094]

Mr Simon Burns: The amounts allocated per capita in South Tyneside, the north-east and England are shown in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Recurrent revenue allocations per head 1996-97 to 2003-04 to health authorities

£

	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97
Gateshead and South Tyneside HA[1]	938	846	777	713	528	498	474
North-east SHA[2]	902	815	749	683	497	471	451
England	824	740	688	629	464	443	426

Note:

Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes in baselines —that is changes in HAs' responsibilities to be funded from allocations.

[1] Allocations between 1996-97 and 1999-2000 were made to 100 health authorities (HAs). Between 2000-01 and 2001-02 they were made to 99 HAs and in 2002-03 to 95 HAs. Gateshead and South Tyneside HA was not part of any merger that reduced the overall number of HAs over this period.

[2] North-east strategic health authority (SHA) was formed on 1 July 2006. The figures here comprise an aggregation of previous HAs based on current north-east SHA boundaries.

Table 2: Recurrent revenue allocations per head 2003-04 to 2011-12 to primary care trusts

£

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
South Tyneside PCT[1]	1,932	1,945	1,848	1,724	1,639	1,492	1,245	1,139	1,038
North-east SHA[2]	1,813	1,812	1,724	1,626	1,551	1,419	1,196	1,095	1,000
England	1,615	1,612	1,540	1,449	1,388	1,274	1,097	1,003	916

Note:

Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes in baselines—that is changes in PCTs' responsibilities to be funded from allocations.

[1] Allocations for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were announced for 304 PCTs, the previous HA of Gateshead and South Tyneside split to form Gateshead PCT and South Tyneside PCT.

[2] North-east SHA was formed on 1 July 2006, having merged from Northumberland Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA. The figures here comprise an aggregation of these two SHAs based on current north-east SHA boundaries.

The amounts spent per head in South Tyneside, the north-east and England are shown in table 3 for the financial years 2003-04 to 2009-10, which are the only years figures are available by individual organisation. Figures for Wales are not held centrally.

Table 3: Spend per capita in South Tyneside, the north-east and England, 2003-04 to 2009-10

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
South Tyneside PCT	1,947	1,784	1,691	1,532	1,446	1,316	1,124
North-east SHA	1,839	1,700	1,612	1,475	1,394	1,272	1,127

Table 3: Spend per capita in South Tyneside, the north-east and England, 2003-04 to 2009-10

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
England	1,650	1,499	1,428	1,315	1,286	1,183	1,045

Notes:

1. Expenditure data used in the calculation of spend per capita value are taken from the audited summarisation schedules of NHS bodies, 2003-04 to 2009-10.

2. North-east SHA was formed on 1 July 2006, having merged from Northumberland Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA. The figures here comprise an aggregation of these two SHAs based on current north-east SHA boundaries.

The amount spent by the national health service in England per capita for 1997-98 to 2002-03 is separately shown in table 4. Expenditure figures for these years are only available at a consolidated national level, and are taken from the published NHS summarised accounts. It is not possible to disaggregate spend in specific constituencies or regions from these figures.

Table 4: Spend per capita in England, 1997-98 to 2001-02

£

	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
England	917	915	842	773	718	663

NHS: Foreign Workers

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors he took into account in respect of workforce planning in the NHS in determining his proposed changes to immigration rules. [70484]

Mr Simon Burns: The Home Office is the lead Department on immigration and any changes to the immigration rules are ultimately made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May).

The Home Office reviewed Tier 1, 2 and the student route (Tier 4) of the Points Based System. The Department worked closely with the Home Office to mitigate the effects of the proposals on health care professionals.

To improve the effectiveness of workforce planning the Department of Health has developed a Centre for Workforce Intelligence. They will provide a single, authoritative and expert resource on workforce development planning for all parts of the national health service and social care system.

Organs: Donors

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking together with pharmacists to encourage organ donor registration. [70184]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is the organ donation organisation for the United Kingdom and is responsible for matching and allocating donated organs. To promote registration to the organ donor register (ODR) at both a national and local level, NHSBT work with a number of partners in the private, public and third sectors.

Through these partnerships, opportunities to sign up to the ODR are universally available to everyone in the UK via national initiatives. For example, each year NHSBT mail out posters and ODR recruitment leaflets to all pharmacies in the UK. The last mailing was completed in March 2011 and included 14,025 pharmacies. NHSBT had 4,920 forms returned of which 1,805 have been converted into new registrations.

Pharmacy

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to replace the 100-hour rule for new pharmacies with the pharmaceutical needs assessment. [70815]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the implementation of the Health Act 2009, an independent Advisory Group was set up in July 2009 to assist in developing new regulations for entry based on local assessments of pharmaceutical needs. Details of the group's work can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Primarycare/Communitypharmacy/RegulationsAdvisoryGroup/index.htm

Ministers are considering carefully the question of whether, and when, we should move to a system of national health service market entry based on local assessments of pharmaceutical need. This includes whether or not the current exemptions to the control of entry test should continue.

Surgery

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how his Department monitors outcomes for vascular surgery; [70473]

(2) what assessment he has made of outcomes for vascular surgery in *(a)* Dudley Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Walsall Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust. [70474]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not monitor outcomes for vascular surgery. One of the key standards of the national health service Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening programme is that all surgeons treating patients identified through the NHS AAA screening programme must submit data to the National Vascular Database and participate in regular reviews of their practice and outcomes.

Surgery: West Midlands

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reconfiguration of vascular surgery in the Black Country. [70472]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the reconfiguration of vascular surgery in the Black Country. The reconfiguration in the Black Country is part of a wider review of vascular services being led by the national health service at the local level.

The Government are committed to devolving power to local communities—to the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils who are best placed to determine the nature of their local NHS services. The Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. To this end, we have outlined new, strengthened criteria that we expect decisions on NHS service changes to meet. They must focus on improving patient outcomes, consider patient choice, have support from GP commissioners and be based on sound clinical evidence.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 9 September 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 2W, on pay, what the pay figures for 2010-11 would be if the pay of staff employed by PICT were included. [69743]

John Thurso: The answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 2W, gave a figure of £57 million for salaries paid to House of Commons staff in 2010-11. This was based on the draft accounts at 23 May 2011. In the final version of the House of Commons Resource Accounts (HC 1423) the equivalent figure fell to £55 million owing to later accounting adjustments. The amount paid in total salaries to staff in the House of Commons plus PICT for the financial year 2010-11 was £64 million. PICT is a joint department of both Houses and the equivalent net cost to the House of Commons is £62 million after taking account of the House of Lords contribution.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister what records 10 Downing street keeps of *(a)* the (i) name and (ii) number of visitors who have entered 10 Downing street through a back entrance since 6 May 2010 and *(b)* the dates of such visits. [68563]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations which is published on a quarterly basis and to the list of meetings with proprietors, editors and senior media executives which was published on 15 July 2011. This is available on the Number 10 website and will be updated quarterly:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-published-details-of-visitors-to-chequers/

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 926.

Airports: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of placing all aviation security matters under the auspices of the Home Department. [70166]

The Prime Minister: The Home Office lead on counter terrorism and the Department for Transport on aeroplane and airport security. Both Departments work closely with each other including through the Cabinet Office.

Appointments

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister what his last appointment was in London before Christmas 2010. [68538]

The Prime Minister: On 21 December 2010 I had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others, including Cabinet. I also refer the hon. Member to the news story that was published on the Number 10 website on 22 December 201:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-and-prince-charles-visit-injured-troops/

News Corporation

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister which the first occasion was that he discussed BSkyB with *(a)* Rebekah Brooks and *(b)* James Murdoch after 22 December 2010. [68539]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 935.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he received advice from the *(a)* information and security services and *(b)* police in advance of employing Andy Coulson; [68542]

(2) which company the Government engaged to vet the appointment of Andy Coulson as Director of Communications at 10 Downing Street; on what date; and at what cost. [69031]

Owen Smith: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether the company which conducted the security vetting of Mr Andy Coulson, upon his appointment as Director of Communications at 10 Downing Street, was an accredited national security vetting provider; [69021]

(2) whether *(a)* Mr Edward Llewelyn, *(b)* Mr Steve Hilton, *(c)* Mr Craig Oliver, *(d)* Mr Andrew Cooper and *(e)* Mr Andy Coulson were subject to (i) baseline personnel security standard vetting, (ii) a counter terrorist check, (iii) a security check and (iv) developed vetting. [69022]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bishop Auckland (Helen Goodman) on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 939. I also refer the hon. Members to the letter sent by the Cabinet Secretary to the hon. Member for Bury South (Mr Lewis) on 22 July 2011. A copy of this is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/andy-coulson-sir-gus-odonnells-letter-ivan-lewis-mp

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the statement of 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 939, (1) what advice he received prior to taking his decision to take himself out of the decision-making process in respect of the acquisition of BSkyB; and whether contacts during the course of his meetings with senior staff from News International at formal meetings or socially, constrained him from taking part in that process; [68833]

(2) for what reasons it was not appropriate for him to take a view on the proposed takeover by NewsCorp of BSkyB; what record was taken of his meetings with senior staff from News International; and if he will place a copy of such records in the Library; [68859]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Islington North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 939. I also refer the right hon. Member to the list of proprietors, senior executives and editors of media organisations that I have met since the general election which was published on Friday 15 July 2011. This is available on the Number 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-published-details-of-visitors-to-chequers/

and will be updated quarterly.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish his Office's records of each communication between his *(a)* chief of staff, *(b)* political office and *(c)* press office and special advisers in (i) HM Treasury, (ii) the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and (iii) the Home Office in which Andy Coulson's name was part of the communication in 2011. [69035]

The Prime Minister: In carrying out their duties, on whatever the subject matter, special advisers and civil servants carry out their duties in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* telephone calls, *(b)* meetings and *(c)* e-mail exchanges his chief of staff has had with Andy Coulson in 2011 to date. [69036]

The Prime Minister: Andy Coulson has not visited Downing Street since his departure on 30 January 2011.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister how many discussions *(a)* in person and *(b)* by telephone he has had with Andy Coulson since Mr Coulson resigned; on what dates; which conversations were monitored by officials of his Department; and what was discussed on each occasion. [69037]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 954.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister how long Andy Coulson stayed at Chequers on his most recent visit; who else was present at Chequers at that time; and whether he discussed with Andy Coulson any issue relating to *(a)* the proposed News Corporation bid for BSkyB and *(b)* allegations of phone hacking and associated activities on that occasion. [69038]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 950, to the hon. Member for Derby North (Chris Williamson).

Mobile Phones

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister how many mobile phones he has that are *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partially funded from the public purse. [67975]

The Prime Minister: I have access to a range of mobile communication devices.

John Yates

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister on what date his chief of staff has communicated with Assistant Commissioner John Yates since his appointment; and whom his chief of staff informed of each such communication. [68564]

The Prime Minister: My Chief of Staff has meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 920.

Lockerbie: Moussa Koussa

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Prime Minister whether Moussa Koussa was interviewed by Scottish police in respect of the Lockerbie bombing. [70982]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to him during my statement on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 45.

Neil Wallis

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether his staff exchanged e-mails with Neil Wallis in *(a)* 2010 or *(b)* 2011; on what dates; and which officials were involved; [68180]

(2) whether he and his officials have met *(a)* Neil Wallis and *(b)* other representatives of Chamy Media since May 2010; [68181]

(3) what communications *(a)* he, *(b)* officials in his private office and *(c)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers in 10 Downing street have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with Neil Wallis since his appointment; and on what dates; [68741]

(4) what occasion his chief of staff communicated with Neil Wallis by *(a)* e-mail, *(b)* personal meeting, *(c)* telephone and *(d)* letter since 6 May 2010; [68492]

(5) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his private office staff, *(c)* his special advisers and *(d)* his press officers had (i) telephone, (ii) e-mail and (iii) face-to-face contact with Neil Wallis in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the record of any such communications. [68541]

The Prime Minister: Our records suggest Mr Wallis visited Downing street to meet Andy Coulson for a drink on 26 May 2010. Andy Coulson and my Chief of Staff attended a working dinner hosted by Commissioner

Sir Paul Stephenson at Scotland Yard in June 2010 at which Neil Wallis was present, as has already been made clear.

Toby Perkins: To ask the Prime Minister when he was first informed that Neil Wallis was employed by the Metropolitan police. [68226]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 920-21, and to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle (Alan Johnson), on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 926.

News Corporation

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what dates he has met *(a)* Rebekah Brooks and *(b)* James Murdoch in his official capacity since May 2010; [67976]

(2) on how many occasions he met Rebekah Brooks between 21 December 2010 and 5 January 2011; and *(a)* where and *(b)* on what date each such meeting took place. [68540]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of proprietors, senior executives and editors of media organisations that I have met since the general election which was published on 15 July 2011. This is available on the Number 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-published-details-of-visitors-to-chequers/

and will be updated quarterly.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what dates his chief of staff has *(a)* spoken in person and *(b)* communicated by (i) e-mail, (ii) text and (iii) telephone to which (A) employees, (B) advisers and (C) other representatives of (1) News Corporation and (2) News International or their media outlets since 1 December 2010; [67977]

(2) on what dates since 6 May 2010 *(a)* employees, *(b)* owners, *(c)* advisers and *(d)* other representatives of (i) News Corporation and (ii) News International or any of their media outlets have visited (A) 10 Downing street, (B) Chequers and (C) his office at the House of Commons; and who visited in each case; [67978]

(3) on what occasions his chief of staff has communicated with *(a)* James Murdoch, *(b)* Rebekah Brooks and *(c)* other representatives of News International and News Corporation by e-mail, personal meeting, telephone or letter. [68566]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of proprietors, senior executives and editors of media organisations that I have met since the general election which was published on 15 July 2011. This is available on the Number 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-published-details-of-visitors-to-chequers/

and will be updated quarterly.

Special advisers publish all hospitality received and will publish all meetings with senior media executives.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish logs of his telephone calls with *(a)* James Murdoch, *(b)* Rupert Murdoch, *(c)* Rebekah Brooks and *(d)* Andy Coulson since he left his position as Director of Communications. [68092]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish logs of telephone calls he has had with *(a)* James Murdoch, *(b)* Rupert Murdoch, *(c)* Rebekah Brooks and *(d)* Andy Coulson since he left his position as the Prime Minister's Director of Communications. [68298]

Ian Lucas: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will publish logs of telephone calls between him and *(a)*(i) James Murdoch, (ii) Rupert Murdoch and (iii) Rebekah Brooks since his appointment and *(b)* Andy Coulson since the date of his resignation as Director of Communications at 10 Downing street; [68825]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the list of meetings with proprietors, editors and senior media executives since May 2010 which was published on 15 July 2011. This is available on the Number 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-published-details-of-visitors-to-chequers

and will be updated quarterly. I am the first Prime Minister to publish such material, I have telephone calls with a wide variety of people.

Media: Communication

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the logs of telephone calls he has had with newspaper editors and proprietors since May 2010. [68178]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish logs of telephone calls he has had with newspaper editors and proprietors since May 2010. [68299]

Ian Lucas: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish logs of telephone calls between him and newspaper editors and proprietors since his appointment. [68824]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the list of meetings with proprietors, editors and senior media executives since May 2010 which was published on 15 July 2011. This is available on the Number 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/pm-published-details-of-visitors-to-chequers

and will be updated quarterly. I am the first Prime Minister to publish such material, I have telephone calls with a wide variety of people.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister whether his chief of staff informed anyone in 10 Downing street of a dossier communicated to him by *The Guardian* newspaper; and if so whom. [68562]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 302-03.

Rebekah Brooks

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister at what time and on what date his Office published the details of his social engagement with Rebekah Brooks on 26 December 2010. [68994]

The Prime Minister: This was published on 15 July 2011.

JUSTICE

Civil Disorder

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what effect public disorder in August 2011 in England and Wales will have on the funding of *(a)* probation, *(b)* courts and *(c)* prison services. [71144]

Mr Djanogly: The recent civil disorder will potentially impact the operational costs of the Ministry of Justice, including courts, probation, and prison services. As part of our regular financial and operational management we are monitoring sentencing trends and prison population against our financial and capacity plans. The full impact of the public disorder will not be known until all offenders have been sentenced by the courts.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether public disorder in August 2011 in England and Wales will result in a review of budgets for criminal justice agencies during 2011-12 and subsequent financial years. [71145]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for the criminal justice system and my Department works closely with the Home Office and Attorney-General's Office.

As part of its regular financial and operational management, the Ministry of Justice monitors sentencing trends and prison population against the financial and capacity plans. The Department is closely monitoring the impact on its services, but the full scale of the financial implications will not be known until all offenders have been sentenced by the courts.

In relation to the police, there is no plan to review the funding settlement. Although challenging, the Home Office believes that the settlement they have reached for the police is both fair and manageable. There is no question but that the police will have the resources to do their important work.

The CPS is currently assessing the additional costs which will be incurred as a result of the recent public disorder. Investigations and prosecutions will continue over the next two years at least and the full impact will not be known until all investigations and prosecutions are concluded.

The Ministry of Justice and CPS will continue to keep the Treasury informed about the implications for their financial position.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69268]

Mr Djanogly: The information is as follows:

(a) The Ministry of Justice tracks savings in a monthly performance report. From April 2011 the methodology described at point (i) has been used to record these savings. Note that from May 2010 to April 2011 a similar methodology was used albeit the reporting of cost pressures was less refined.

(i) The procurement performance report provides a monthly forecast of in year procurement savings, cost pressures, cost avoidance and the resulting net impact on the financial year to senior managers, the MoJ Procurement Committee and the MoJ Finance Committee.

Savings are recorded by Procurement Category Leads in accordance with OGC Guidance "Procurement Efficiency and Value for Money Measurement—Efficiency Programme Guidance". Savings are recorded against the category of spend the saving as defined by the OGC 2008 Procurement Spend Survey. Savings and changes in savings are registered through exception reports on a monthly basis and signed off by business stakeholders.

Cashable savings

A cashable saving is defined as

> "efficiencies that release financial resources whilst maintaining outputs and output quality, thereby enabling the resources that are released to be diverted to other services".

Savings are recorded as the total amount claimed excluding VAT rounded to the nearest whole pound. Cashable savings are reported as 'in year' savings (the pro rata saving enabled during the financial year in which the initiative was delivered) and 'full year effect' savings (the initiatives impact on the following financial year)

Cost pressures

Cost pressures are recorded against MoJ categories of spend and are forecast for the 2011-12 financial year. These pressures are reported across Procurement Major Contracts, Category Management, ICT Procurement and Transport and Logistics. Cost pressures are recorded against the following 'types' of pressure;

Inflation

Change in legislation/Policy

Supplier price increase above inflation

Other

Cost avoidance savings

Cost avoidance savings enabled by MoJ Procurement are calculated by comparing projected spend with counterfactual spend whereby a saving results when spend is lower than it would have been otherwise had the cost avoidance exercise had not been undertaken. Counterfactual spend is based on a 'do nothing' approach ie if the MoJ did nothing then spend would rise in line with inflation. Cost avoidance, if enabled, will be recorded against relevant forecasted cost pressures. Non-cashable savings are not recorded unless they are to negate a recorded cost pressure.

The *net savings effect* is provided for MoJ as a whole and by MoJ Corporate, NOMS and HMCTS business groups. The net savings effect = enabled savings + remaining forecast savings - forecast annual cost pressure + enabled cost avoidance.

(b) The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) does not hold centrally information regarding the methodology used by NDPBs to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing.

This information can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost to the Department, by requesting this information from every NDPB.

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of legal aid provided for asylum seekers was in each of the last eight years. [71105]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to disaggregate asylum spending from other immigration spending in all cases, nor is it possible to identify legal aid spending on asylum seekers in other categories of law; for example, family law and criminal law. Therefore, the figures in the following table show total legal aid spending on the immigration and asylum category of law.

	Total in £ million cash
2003-04	200
2004-05	177
2005-06	103
2006-07	80
2007-08	86
2008-09	88
2009-10	90
2009-10	84

NHS: Negligence

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the level of costs payable by the Department of Health if legal aid funding were to be retained for children with catastrophic injuries as a result of alleged clinical negligence. [70266]

Mr Djanogly: According to data held by the Legal Services Commission the volume of children under the age of 18 which received legal aid for clinical negligence closed in 2010-11 was 587 and gross spend was £6,278,733. A further detailed breakdown is not available.

Youth Custody

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were held in the youth secure estate on each night since 1 August 2011. [70125]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the number of young people held in the secure estate for children and young people on each week night for the period from 1 August 2011 to 5 September 2011.

Young people are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years of age, however some 18-year-olds remain in the secure estate for children and young people if they only have a short period of their sentence left to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes (and are included in these figures). This data is from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and refers to Secure Training Centres (STCs), Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). The data are drawn from the daily operational data provided by each establishment, and therefore does not include data on weekends or bank holidays. It also does not include 18 to 21-year-olds held in YOI separate units for which the YJB do not hold data.

Table 1: Number of young people held in the secure estate for children and young people on each week night from 1 August to 5 September 2011

Date	*Number*
August	
1	2,117
2	2,117
3	2,116
4	2,107
5	2,104
6	—
7	—
8	2,095
9	2,099
10	2,094
11	2,129
12	2,144
13	—
14	—
15	2,181
16	2,209
17	2,234
18	2,254
19	2,245
20	—
21	—
22	2,243
23	2,265
24	2,253
25	2,245
26	2,243
27	—
28	—
29	—
30	2,258
31	2,247
September	
1	2,253
2	2,236
3	—
4	—
5	2,224

Notes:

1. 2011 YJB data referring to Secure Training Centres (STCs), Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). The data is drawn from the daily operational data provided by each establishment, and therefore does not include data on weekends or bank holidays. It also does not include 18 to 21-year-olds held in YOI separate units for which the YJB do not hold data.

2. Young people are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years of age, however some 18-year-olds remain in the secure estate for children and young people if they only have a short period of their sentence left to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes (and are included in these figures).

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity Supply

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of electricity that will be generated by the Shears Mill mini-hydro scheme on the River Itchen; and how many homes he estimates the project will power. [71053]

Gregory Barker: Information on individual hydro projects relating to applications for permits can be sought directly from the Environment Agency.

Energy Supply: Older People

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged over 60 years had (i) gas supplies and (ii) electricity supplies disconnected in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71233]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem monitors and publishes information about the disconnection of gas and electricity supplies. However, the disconnection data are not collected by age or gender. The following tables show the total number of disconnections due to debt for gas and electricity in each year from 1998 to 2010.

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Gas	29,500	22,177	16,500	26,088	21,780	15,973
Electricity	400	373	300	375	995	1,361

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Gas	2,553	2,309	3,859	5,127	2,999	1,794	813
Electricity	727	604	1,258	2,657	2,891	2,433	1,988

Existing supply licence obligations and an industry code of practice provide protection for consumers in debt. Suppliers must not disconnect a domestic premises during October to March if they know or have reason to believe that the customer is of pensionable age and lives alone, or only lives with other pensioners or children under the age of 18.

Energy: Prices

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on increases in domestic electricity and gas prices; and if he will make a statement. [70698]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials have received a number of representations on market issues.

Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means effective competition in the marketplace. We are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its retail market review.

Fossil Fuels

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to introduce regulatory guidelines for fracking. [71098]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a strong regulatory safety and environmental regime in place, administered by the Health and Safety Executive, the respective environmental agencies, the planning authorities and my Department, to ensure that all potential risks to safety or the environment are properly managed. Onshore gas exploration has a long history in the UK and the technologies employed—including hydraulic fracturing (fracking)—are well understood. Fracking is already subject to the same regulatory and environmental requirements as any other onshore drilling activity and I therefore have no current plans to introduce regulatory guidelines.

Renewable Energy: Research

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on renewable energy research and development by *(a)* the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment and *(b)* the UK Energy Research Centre since May 2010. [70197]

Gregory Barker: In financial year 2010-11 the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) spent £3,389,370 on renewable energy research and development (including the National Non Food Crops Centre). In the current financial year to date (April 2011 to August 2011) ORED spent £370,738 (including NNFCC).

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for spending by the UK Energy Research Council on its renewable energy research and development.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on operations in Afghanistan of the UK's participation in military action in Libya; and if he will make a statement. [70647]

Dr Fox: We are committed to success in Afghanistan, which continues to be our main effort. As part of normal Defence business, an effective balance of resources is maintained to ensure that we continue to meet operational commitments in Afghanistan and in Libya. We will continue to keep our requirements under review taking military advice, including advice from our Commanders on the ground, so that our armed forces receive the support they need for the vital work they are undertaking.

Armed Forces

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* increase in provision of services which would be required and *(b)* cost to the public purse of implementing the Army's policy that personnel and their families should integrate as fully as possible into the local communities in which they are based. [70193]

Nick Harvey: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of the Army moves. While our plans will continue to be driven by the military requirement, we will aim, where possible, to base Army personnel close to a number of units, to enable them to change post while providing greater family stability and be close enough to urban areas to allow their families to have easier access to jobs, schools, housing and other facilities.

This detailed planning work will involve engagement with partners such as the Scottish Government, West Lothian Council and other Government Departments and agencies. It is therefore too early to confirm further details on the exact requirements and their costs.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the married quarters accommodation associated with Redford and Dreghorn Barracks will be used during any interval between the relocation of military personnel and their families from Redford and Dreghorn and the opening of the new barracks in Kirknewton. [70400]

Mr Robathan: The requirement for service family accommodation (SFA) is kept under constant review. It is assumed that there will be a continual requirement for SFA in the Edinburgh area from entitled service personnel and their families.

Army

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the final cost was of moving the Army's Northern headquarters from York to Edinburgh. [70278]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested.

Manpower: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's civilian staff were *(a)* working and *(b)* based in Wales in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [67848]

Mr Robathan: The headcount and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) strength of Ministry of Defence civilian personnel working in Wales are shown in the following table:

	Headcount	*FTE*
April 2008	2,210	2,170
April 2009	2,050	2,010
April 2010	2,020	1,970
April 2011	1,810	1,760

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Ministerial Pay

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ministerial salary was of each Minister in his Department in *(a)* January 2009, *(b)* January 2010 and *(c)* 1 May 2010. [70829]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* Salaries paid to Ministers in the Ministry of Defence for the periods requested are as follows:

Ministers and position	*Salary at 1 January 2009 (£)*	*Salary at 1 January 2010 (£)*	*Salary at 1 May 2010 (£)*
Secretary of State right hon. John Hutton MP Appointed 4 October 2008 Resigned 5 June 2009	78,356	—	—
Secretary of State right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP Appointed 6 June 2009	—	78,356	78,356
Minister of State right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP To 5 June 2009	40,646	—	—
Minister of State Bill Rammell MP Appointed 8 June 2009	—	40,646	40,646
Minister of State right hon. Lord Drayson	Unpaid	Unpaid	Unpaid
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State right hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton	72,326	72,326	72,326
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of Stale Kevan Jones MP Unpaid to 8 June 2009	Unpaid	30,851	30,851

Ministers and position	*Salary at 1 January 2009 (£)*	*Salary at 1 January 2010 (£)*	*Salary at 1 May 2010 (£)*
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Quentin Davies MP	Unpaid	Unpaid	Unpaid

Libya: Armed Conflict

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on *(a)* the types of weapons used by other NATO nations against targets in Libya and *(b)* the proportion of total weapons used represented by each type. [70223]

Nick Harvey: The UK does not comment on the operational details of allied nations' operations, which are a matter for the Governments concerned.

Libya: Security

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support he plans to give to the National Transitional Council to support security sector reform in Libya. [70548]

Dr Fox: The United Nations leads on co-ordinating the international community's response to the post-conflict needs of Libya. If the National Transitional Council submits a formal request for assistance, the UK will work closely with international partners and donors to help meet the needs of the Libyan people.

Military Bases

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where he expects *(a)* the army bomb disposal unit and *(b)* other units based at Craigiehall, other than the 2nd Division headquarters, to be based after the closure of Craigiehall and before any new facilities are completed. [70209]

Nick Harvey: The announcement made by the Secretary of State on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, set out the strategic long-term direction on the structure of the Army and its basing requirements across the United Kingdom. The announcement also confirmed the Secretary of State's aim to make the most efficient use of the Defence estate by vacating and disposing of Craigiehall by 2014-15.

Comprehensive planning work is now under way to understand the impact on Army bomb disposal and other units based at Craigiehall and to draw up plans for their re-provision.

Until this work is complete and further detail is known about the size and type of units that will be required to support the future Army lay down in Scotland, it is too soon to confirm the future locations of units currently based at Craigiehall.

Military Bases: Kirknewton

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he expects to allocate under each budget heading to the new army base at Kirknewton. [70189]

Nick Harvey: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of the Army moves.

Until this work is complete and further detail is known about the size and type of units that will move to Kirknewton, it is not possible to confirm budgetary requirements or allocations.

Navy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department has given to the Royal Navy Philatelic Society in each of the last five years. [70867]

Mr Robathan: The Royal Navy Philatelic Society is an independently managed private fund. It has been closely associated with the Royal Navy by the nature of its role of promoting the philatelic hobby amongst Naval Service personnel, although not exclusively so. No Ministry of Defence support is given for the maintenance and regulation of the society.

Olympic Games 2012

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's planned role is in the London 2012 Olympics. [70435]

Nick Harvey: The Government are committed to delivering a safe and secure 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for all, in keeping with the Olympic culture and spirit.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has overall responsibility for the conduct of the Games. The Secretary of State for the Home Department has overall responsibility for the security arrangements. The Ministry of Defence expects that it may provide other Government Departments with some specialist support and capabilities in niche areas. Although at a mature state of planning, the extent of that support is yet to be finalised.

RAF Kirknewton

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the results were of the ecological survey commissioned by his Department one year after the diesel leakage at RAF Kirknewton; and if he will place in the Library a copy of these results; [70203]

(2) whether a risk assessment has been carried out on the potential for damage to oil tanks buried under Kirknewton, West Lothian, by the construction of a super-barracks on the site; [70204]

(3) what the total cost was of *(a)* repairing the underground fuel tanks and *(b)* cleaning the surrounding area after the diesel leak at RAF Kirknewton in March 2010; [70205]

(4) what costs are likely to be incurred in building the new barracks at Kirknewton, West Lothian, as a result of the presence of two redundant fuel tanks under the airfield; and for what purposes. [70206]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the ecological survey report will be placed in the Library of the House. The surveys concluded that no remedial measures are recommended as the Green Burn is recovering and there is no discernable impact further downstream or along the Goger Burn. A further survey is to be undertaken in 2012 to confirm that water quality has returned to normal and re-colonisation is complete.

The total costs arising from the removal of tanks and remediation of the surrounding ground following the pollution incident in March 2010 comprised of:

£105,274.09 to investigate and delineate the pollution and remove residual hydrocarbons from the drainage system;

£46,159 to remove the two leaking tanks, excavate and dispose of hydrocarbon contaminated soil and reinstate the ground; and

£17,554.96 to make adjustments to the drainage system.

It is too early at this time to confirm further details of any costs that may be incurred at Kirknewton, including those costs associated with the presence of any remaining redundant fuel tanks, infrastructure and the carrying out of risk assessments. Kirknewton is however scheduled for inclusion within the Ministry of Defence's Land Quality Assessment programme for the current financial year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-slavery Day 2011

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to mark Anti-Slavery Day 2011. [70895]

Damian Green: The Government are currently developing their plans for the day and will announce them in due course.

UK Border Agency

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in the UK Border Agency *(a)* were working at each grade on 1 September 2011 and *(b)* are expected to be working at each grade on 1 September 2012. [70486]

Damian Green: The information for 31 August 2011—the most recent available—is set out in the following table:

Grade equivalent	*Total*[1]
Administrative Assistant	1,315
Administrative Officer	4,344
Assistant Immigration Officer[2]	643
Executive Officer	3,477
Immigration Officer[2]	5,321
Higher Executive Officer	2,037
Chief Immigration Officer[2]	976
Senior Executive Officer	1,158
HM Inspector of Immigration[2]	223
Grade 7	551
Grade 6	179
Senior Civil Servant	67
Grade unrecorded centrally	79
Locally engaged staff abroad (estimate)	1,268
Temporary staff abroad (estimate)	121
Inward seconded police (estimate)	157
Workforce	21,917

[1] Figures are provided as at 31 August, the most recent download from the UK Border Agency central personnel system. Staff working abroad have been included on an estimated basis from July staffing material and other sources.

[2] Immigration Service grade equivalents given here, include comparable staff on former HM Revenue and Customs grades.

Notes:

1. Locally engaged staff abroad etc. are included on the most recent reported basis (July 2011).
2. Work force excludes staff on special leave, career break and unpaid maternity leave. Because of the inclusion of figures for July, the total figure is an estimate of the end August position.

The UK Border Agency is expected to reduce work force over the spending review period. By 31 March 2015 we expect there to be around 18,000 staff working for the agency. This means a reduction of around 5,200 posts from 31 March 2011.

A detailed breakdown of staff numbers month by month is not available.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of payments made by her Department and its agencies to external IT contractors in each year since 2009. [70577]

Damian Green: The Home Department, inclusive of its Executive agencies, has published its expenditure with external IT contractors in its annual report and accounts for the period requested.

Training

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on training for Ministers since 12 May 2010. [67726]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* All ministerial training is funded through the National School of Government's Core Learning Programme which delivers induction and other training to Ministers. This is funded through a Government-wide centralised budget, to which the Home Office contributes.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spousal visa applications have been rejected since 6 April 2011 on the basis of not meeting English language requirements. [70859]

Damian Green: The number of spousal visa applications refused between 6 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 on the basis of not meeting the English language requirement is 55.

A monthly breakdown is as follows:

Month	*Number refused*
From 6 April 2011	13
May 2011	24
June 2011	18

Month	*Number refused*
Total	

These data are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

European Court of Human Rights

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the European Court of Human Rights on proposed changes to the family migration route in the UK. [70568]

Damian Green: I have had no discussions with the European Court of Human Rights on proposed changes to the family migration route, and no such discussions are planned.

Extradition

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what extradition facilities the United Kingdom has with Qatar. [70980]

Damian Green: There are currently no general extradition relations between the UK and Qatar, although this does not preclude the possibility of extradition.

The UK can also have extradition relations with parties to international conventions relating to specific very serious crimes, of which the UK is also a signatory. This is provided for within section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003. The UK and Qatar are signatories to a number of such conventions. Section 194 of the Extradition Act 2003 makes provision for the UK to consider extradition requests made to it by a territory with which no general extradition arrangements are in place.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on returning girls to countries which are known to practise female genital mutilation. [71086]

Damian Green: All asylum applications, including those which raise female genital mutilation, are carefully considered by the UK Border Agency on their individual merits, taking into consideration up to date country information.

Asylum or Humanitarian protection will be granted where it is established that an individual adult or child faces a real risk of female genital mutilation in her own country. This will only apply in cases where the country's authorities cannot provide protection, and where there is no reasonable possibility of moving elsewhere in the country to avoid the threat.

The UK Border Agency only enforces the return of those nationals who it is satisfied are not in need of international protection, and it does not seek to enforce returns to any country unless it and the UK Courts are satisfied that it is safe to do so.

Highly Trusted Status

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many higher education institutions in Scotland have applied for Highly Trusted Sponsor Status; when each institution applied; and when each institution was informed of the results of its application. [70160]

Damian Green: As at 5 September 2011, 16 higher education institutions in Scotland had applied for Highly Trusted Sponsor Status. Information on the dates of application and decision for these institutions is as follows:

Sponsor	*Date of application*	*Date notified of decision*
1	30 June 2010	28 September 2010
2	28 June 2010	23 September 2010
3	29 June 2010	1 September 2010
4	30 June 2010	26 November 2010
5	21 June 2010	22 September 2010
6	1 July 2010	3 September 2010
7	29 June 2010	3 August 2010
8	30 June 2010	24 December 2010
9	30 June 2010	20 September 2010
10	28 June 2010	22 September 2010
11	30 June 2010	20 September 2010
12	18 June 2010	27 September 2010
13	13 August 2010	24 September 2010
14	30 June 2010	14 September 2010
15	25 June 2010	26 August 2010
16	28 June 2010	8 September 2010

The figures provided are based on local statistical information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and subject to change.

Human Rights

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from human rights organisations concerning Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [70569]

Damian Green: The Government are currently consulting on family migration, and the consultation discusses the operation of Article 8 and immigration control. The consultation runs until 6 October, and a list of contributors will be published thereafter.

Human Trafficking

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to reduce the difference between the estimated number of victims of human trafficking in the UK and the number of potential victims of human trafficking identified by the National Referral Mechanism. [70906]

Damian Green: Trafficking is by its nature a hidden crime and therefore it is difficult to get a full picture of the numbers involved. Entry to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is voluntary so we cannot force those we suspect of being victims to participate against their will. But we are committed to bringing as many victims as possible into the NRM. To do this we continue to raise awareness of trafficking with frontline partners such as the police, local authorities and health service and have recently increased the number of voluntary sector partners who are able to make direct referrals into the NRM. Working in partnership with the UK Border Agency's audit team and the Strategic Monitoring Group, who are responsible for overseeing the functioning of the NRM, we are also enhancing the way we identify victims of trafficking from those who are referred to us. Details of the steps we are taking can be found in the Government's Human Trafficking Strategy, published on 19 July 2011:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/human-trafficking-strategy

Identity and Passport Service: Redundancy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what redundancy notice employees of the Identity and Passport Service aged over 60 years are entitled to; and if she will make a statement. [71023]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* All redundancy notice periods are made in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Management Code and Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Immigration

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the change in the level of net migration arising from the proposed changes to the family migration route over the next five years. [70570]

Damian Green: The impact on net migration of the proposed changes to the family route will be set out in the impact assessment which will be published when final changes are announced following the current consultation. These will take into account advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee on where the income threshold should be set.

Neil Wallis

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she, *(b)* her private office staff, *(c)* her special advisers and *(d)* press officers in her Department had (i) telephone and (ii) e-mail contact with Neil Wallis in (A) 2010 and (B) 2011. [68182]

Damian Green *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* There was no communication between the Home Secretary or her special advisers and Neil Wallis in either 2010 or 2011.

No central records are held regarding communication with departmental officials and external organisations, so retrieving this information would be at disproportionate cost.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what communications *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers in her Department, *(c)* officials in her private office and *(d)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers of her Department have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with Neil Wallis since her appointment; and on what dates. [68740]

Damian Green: No meetings or other types of communication have taken place between the Home Secretary, other Ministers or the special advisers and Neil Wallis.

Records relating to e-mail, meetings, telephone conversations, letters between departmental officials and external organisations are not held centrally and to collate such information would incur disproportionate cost.

Overseas Workers

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to prevent trafficking of people following the abolition of the overseas domestic services visa; and if she will make a statement. [70811]

Damian Green: Details of the steps the Government are taking to prevent the trafficking of people can be found in its Human Trafficking Strategy, published on 19 July 2011:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/human-trafficking-strategy

The Government's consultation, Employment-Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers, published on 9 June, is open for comment until 9 September. Its proposals on overseas domestic workers include the possible abolition of the route for domestic workers who work in the private household of their employer in the UK. No decision has been made on abolition. We will consider future policy on overseas domestic workers in the light of responses to the consultation.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether doctors working on Tier 2 visas will be exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test at further points when they have to apply for higher specialist training. [70854]

Damian Green: Doctors who have begun Speciality Training in the UK under Tier 2 are currently exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test when they apply to continue that training. We have no plans to change this.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to decide whether doctors who are non-EEA nationals who have trained in the UK will continue to be exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test in light of changes to Tier 2 and Tier 4 visas. [70855]

Damian Green: We have no plans to remove any Resident Labour Market Test exemptions in relation to doctors who have trained in the UK.

Visas

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals for *(a)* Tier 1 and *(b)* Tier 2 visa applications have (i) been upheld and (ii) not been successful in the last 12 months for which information is available. [70455]

Damian Green: Outside the UK, a refusal of entry clearance to a main applicant under all tiers of the points based system (PBS) does not attract a full right of appeal. Main applicants can appeal only on one or more of the following grounds:

> that the decision is unlawful by virtue of Section 19B of the Race Relations Act 1976 (c.74) (discrimination by public authorities), and/or
>
> that the decision is unlawful under Section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (c.42) (public authority not to act contrary to Human Rights Convention) as being incompatible with the appellant's convention rights.

PBS main applicants can apply for an administrative review, which is a mechanism for reviewing refusal decisions.

PBS dependants who are refused do have full right of appeal. The following figures cover such appeals and the period August 2010 to July 2011

	Appeals
Tier 1 appeals upheld	430
Tier 1 appeals dismissed	285
Tier 2 appeals upheld	177
Tier 2 appeals dismissed	136

As there is no full right of appeal for PBS main applicants, the above numbers are mainly for PBS dependants.

In addition to the above there have been the following administrative reviews processed during this period:

Tier 1: 1,743

Tier 2: 733.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will work with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to assess the potential effects of changes to Tier 1 and 2 visas on *(a)* levels of skill shortage and *(b)* the UK economy. [70457]

Damian Green: The Home Office and UK Border Agency work closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and other interested Departments on all significant changes to economic migration policy. The Migration Advisory Committee also considered the input of a limit in its report last year.

Visas: Appeals

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to simplify the visa appeals process. [70487]

Damian Green: The Government are currently consulting on the circumstances in which a family visit visa appeal should be retained and is inviting suggestions as to how the family visit visa application form and process can be improved in order to reduce the number of appeals. The consultation can be found at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/consultations

In the interim, we are taking steps to simplify the visa appeal process by introducing a single point of lodgement for visa appeals alongside the introduction of appeal fees. The change, which will result in all appeals being lodged at the tribunal, will remove the risk of duplication and delay in the system.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Disclosure of Information

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on tax *(a)* evasion and *(b)* avoidance of granting HM Revenue and Customs access to information on UK registered companies' bank accounts. [70210]

Mr Hoban: No separate assessment has been made by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of the exchequer benefit relating to *(a)* evasion or *(b)* avoidance arising from access to data on the existence or status of bank accounts alone.

HMRC uses a range of information as part of its work to address tax compliance risks.

Where it is considered necessary to check a company's tax position HMRC may obtain information either from the taxpayer directly or, subject to greater safeguards, from a third party. This can include copies of banking and financial transactions from financial institutions.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on granting HM Revenue and Customs access to data on the *(a)* existence and *(b)* status of UK registered companies' bank accounts. [70211]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is granted access to data about UK company bank accounts under existing legislation. Firstly, HMRC receive an annual report from every UK bank and any foreign bank which operates in the UK. The bank must report details of the interest paid on company accounts open during that year for any company which has a UK address.

Secondly, HMRC may approach banks for information which is required to check a person's tax position. This includes details of bank accounts held by UK companies and may include any information in the bank's power or possession relating to open, or closed accounts, which may be reasonably required during an ongoing HMRC check or where there is a risk of serious prejudice to the assessment or collection of tax. HMRC has given a commitment that it will only issue a written notice requesting this information where approval has been given by the First Tier Tribunal.

Banks: Fraud

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many senior banking executives and directors have been investigated by (*a*) the Financial Services Authority and (*b*) the police for submitting fraudulent expenses in each of the last five years. [69334]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority is not a fraud prosecutor; therefore the investigation of matters such as fraudulent expenses falls primarily to other enforcement agencies such as the police or the Serious Fraud Office (SFO). However, if the police or the SFO, or the FSA in the course of carrying out its regulated activities, found that a person who held an FSA controlled function had submitted a fraudulent expenses claim, the FSA would consider the matter in the light of the fit and proper criteria for approved persons and take appropriate action, which could include investigation and disciplinary action such as a financial penalty or prohibition.

The Home Office is responsible for collecting data on police recorded crime. However, information on the number of senior banking executives and directors that have been investigated by the police for submitting fraudulent expenses is not collected centrally.

Banks: Regulation

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to support improved, more standardised and more regular reporting of financial data by banks; and if he will make a statement. [69750]

Mr Hoban: The Government are making strong efforts both domestically and internationally to enhance transparency and disclosure.

Banks' financial statements must show a true and fair view; as part of this, the financial statements of listed banks must be prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. Improvements to standards governing valuation of financial instruments and off-balance sheet arrangements have been adopted and further enhancements to valuation and impairment standards are in progress.

The Basel Committee has put in place improvements to the Pillar 3 disclosures covering capital and risk management. These have been implemented in the UK through FSA rules.

The Government encourage transparent disclosures and is taking a number of actions with regards to the reporting of data by banks, as part of wider EU initiatives, including enhanced sovereign disclosures in the latest European Banking Authority (EBA) stress tests that provide greater transparency to market participants; and proposals for Capital Requirements legislation (CRD4), the European implementation of Basel 3, to require banks to publish their leverage ratio and information on liquidity from 2015.

Finally, the Government endorse the interim Financial Policy Committee (FPC) recommendation, made at the FPC meeting on 16 June 2011, for the FSA to "ensure that improved disclosure of sovereign and banking sector exposures by major UK banks becomes a permanent part of their reporting framework, and to work with the FPC to consider further extensions of disclosure in the future".

Child Tax Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on levels of child poverty attributable to the changes in payment rate for the childcare element of the child tax credit applicable from the 2011-12 financial year in each of the next four financial years. [70475]

Mr Gauke: It is the impact of the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important for child poverty.

The Government increased the child element of the Child Tax Credit by £180 above indexation in April 2011 and will increase it by £110 above indexation in April 2012. As a result, modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Parents currently receive support to pay for childcare through the childcare element of Working Tax Credit. In addition, the Government maintained free early learning for 3 and 4 year olds, and extended 15 hours a week of free early education and care to all disadvantaged 2 year olds from 2012-13.

The new Universal Credit will replace the current complex system of means-tested working age benefits with an integrated payment over the next two Parliaments, reducing fraud and error and ensuring that work pays.

The Government are working with key stakeholders, drawing on their expertise, to establish which options will best support parents to meet the costs of childcare in the future within or alongside Universal Credit. Details of the new proposal will be set out shortly.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the changes in income in each decile of the population attributable to the changes in payment rate of the child care element of child tax credit in *(a)* each constituency, *(b)* each local authority area, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* England, *(f)* Northern Ireland and *(g)* the United Kingdom in (i) the 2011-12 financial year and (ii) each of the next four financial years; [70477]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average change in income attributable to the changes in payment rate of the child care element of child tax credit in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area in (i) the 2011-12 financial year and (ii) each of the next four financial years. [70478]

Mr Gauke: It is the impact of the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important for households. At the June Budget 2010, Spending Review 2011, and most recently Budget 2011, this Government have published detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of its decisions (see for example charts A.2 and A.3 in Annex A of Budget 2011).

This analysis shows that, when looking at the cumulative impact of reforms introduced by this Government, it is clear that the top decile contributes the most to the fiscal consolidation, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of net income.

This analysis is at a UK level. It is not possible to provide the estimates requested at the other disaggregations asked for as these do not provide sufficiently robust results.

Looking at the impact of tax credit changes in 2011-12 would only show a partial effect as it is only in 2012-13 that they are fully implemented. Also, presenting analyses of tax, tax credit and benefit changes further into the future may not be representative of the impact of Government policy. In addition there is greater uncertainty associated with longer term economic forecasts which underpin the modelling.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of the child care element of child tax credit there were in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last five financial years. [70479]

Mr Gauke: Information on the number of recipients of the child care element of working tax credit by constituency and local authority area can be found in tables 2 and 3 of the annual HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics: Finalised Annual Awards—Geographical Analysis". Publications covering the last five financial years are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/final-award-geog.htm

Corporation Tax: Credit Unions

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the current law on corporation tax as it applies to credit unions. [68841]

Mr Gauke: The Government keep all taxes under review.

The Government have committed to foster diversity, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry, as set out in the coalition's programme for Government.

On 3 March the Department for Work and Pensions announced a £73 million modernisation fund to help credit unions expand their services. This is subject to a feasibility study which closes in September. An update can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/other-specialists/the-growth-fund/latest-news/

On 12 April the Treasury made the Mutual Societies (Electronic Communications) Order 2011. This allows credit unions and other mutuals to communicate with their members electronically.

I am also pleased to inform the hon. Member that on Tuesday 19 July the draft Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order 2011 was laid in Parliament for its final period of scrutiny. It will present many opportunities for credit unions to develop their services and expand their membership. For example, the changes in membership rules will allow for recruitment of members in new areas and for partnerships and companies to become members and invest in their local credit union.

Debit Cards: Fees and Charges

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department expects to respond to the recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading on debit card surcharges. [70051]

Mr Hoban: The Government are considering the OFT's recommendations and will respond in due course.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many persons resident in West Worcestershire constituency have (a) made claims and (b) received payment under the Equitable Life Compensation Scheme in each month since the scheme began. [70256]

Mr Hoban: The Scheme does not require policyholders to make a claim for payment. The Scheme will directly contact eligible policyholders in accordance with the prioritisation criteria set out in the Scheme rules, available at:

http://equitablelifepaymentscheme.independent.gov.uk/resources/elps_main_doc_final.htm.

Payments began on 30 June, and hundreds of payments have been made to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the Scheme's complex payment processes are refined further. The scheme does not hold a breakdown of eligible policyholders by constituency.

Financial Policy Committee

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria were used in determining the appointment of members of the interim Financial Policy Committee; and what discussions there were on the criteria of the appointment of members of the Interim Financial Policy Committee prior to those appointments being made. [69625]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The four independent members of the interim Financial Policy Committee were appointed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Governor of the Bank of England. The Committee's membership brings an appropriate balance of expertise and experience across the range of the issues within the Committee's remit.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people (*a*) have been and (*b*) are expected to be taken out of income tax bands during the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [70110]

Mr Hoban: The Government's objective is to support lower and middle income earners by raising the personal allowance to £10,000, with real terms progress towards that goal every year.

The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 cash increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £7,475 in 2011-12 (£820 above the previous Government's plans), with the benefits focussed on individuals on low and middle incomes through accompanying changes to the basic rate limit and National Insurance Upper Earnings and Profit Limits.

As a result of this measure, the Government estimates that 830,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether in 2011-12.

The 2011 Budget announced a £630 cash increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £8,105 in 2012-13 (£240 above indexation), with an equivalent reduction in the basic rate limit to leave the higher rate threshold unchanged.

As a result of this measure, the Government estimates that 260,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether in 2012-13.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Inward Investment

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage global business to invest in the UK. [71109]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury contributed to the development of policy actions for trade and inward investment within the Plan for Growth, published in March 2011. This is part of the Treasury's ongoing work to support all businesses in the UK that includes creating the most competitive tax system in the G20 and making the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business.

National Insurance Contributions

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses (*a*) in North East Derbyshire constituency, (*b*) in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and (*c*) nationally have participated in the regional employer national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses since it was introduced. [70105]

Mr Hoban: As of 5 September 2011, HMRC has received 8 successful applications for the NICs holiday for businesses in North East Derbyshire constituency and 6,316 successful applications nationally.

Information about applications is not available for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire as data are not provided on a county level.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to extend the national insurance contributions holiday to existing businesses with fewer than four members of staff. [70106]

Mr Gauke: The policy is designed to support new businesses in parts of the country that are most reliant on the public sector assisting them in their first year, reducing the costs of hiring staff and improving the likelihood of business survival.

The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday to all existing micro businesses but believes the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the NICs holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

National Insurance Contributions: Pensioners

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the level of revenue which could be raised from charging national insurance contributions on pensioners' incomes as a means of funding care services; and if he will make a statement. [71004]

Mr Hoban: The Government estimates that around £500m would be raised in 2011-12 if individuals over state pension age were required to pay national insurance contributions on employment and self-employment income.

This estimate is based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook and includes an estimated behavioural adjustment to reflect changes in labour supply for this age group.

National Insurance Contributions: Scotland

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many successful applications for the national insurance holiday scheme his Department has received from businesses based in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* the city of Glasgow and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency in Scotland. [71049]

Mr Hoban: As of 7 September 2011, HMRC has received 922 successful applications for the NICs holiday from businesses located in Scotland.

Information for applications from the city of Glasgow are not available as data are not provided on this level.

A breakdown of successful applications for the NICs holiday by constituency will be published in the House of Commons Library in the autumn. This will provide figures for all Glasgow, as well as Scottish, constituencies.

Northern Rock plc

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that Northern Rock employees in the North East are retained so that Northern Rock remains a regional bank. [71081]

Mr Hoban: The Government recognises the role that Northern Rock plays as an employer and provider of financial services in the North East. Prospective acquirers for Northern Rock PLC will be asked to lay out their plans for the company's headquarters and branches and also to provide a view on the impact of their acquisition on competition.

Revenue and Customs

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reorganisations of employees and units there have been within HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) dealing with high-value taxpayers since May 2010; what estimate he has made of the change in yield received by HMRC attributable to such changes; and what the result has been in terms of the yield generated to HMRC. [70525]

Mr Hoban: The High Net Worth Unit (HNWU) was created in 2009 to deal with the personal tax affairs of about 5,000 of HMRC's wealthiest individual customers, typically those with at least £20 million in wealth. This reorganisation was completed during early 2010-11, reflecting the experience of the operation over its first year.

Initial projections were that HMRC could achieve compliance yield of between £50 million to £100 million per year from the HNWU, once it was fully operational.

This compares with the £25 million compliance yield typically achieved from the equivalent taxpayer group by the previous organisation.

The unit's additional tax yield in the first year of operations (2009-10) was £85 million; in the second year (2010-11) it was £162 million.

Revenue and Customs: Finance

Mr Ward: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the implementation of budgetary changes in HM Revenue and Customs does not adversely affect its ability to *(a)* collect taxes and *(b)* provide customer service. [71106]

Mr Hoban: HMRC will create a tax administration that is more efficient, flexible and effective by using a customer-centric approach to transform the way it delivers services, manages contact and conducts interventions. HMRC will use its understanding of customers to target resources to the areas of greatest risk, investing £900 million to tackle avoidance and evasion, attacks by organised criminals and to improve debt collection capacity. This will bring in an estimated £7 billion a year by 2014-15 in additional revenues.

It will transform PAYE through the use of real-time information in order to bring service improvements to employers and taxpayers.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 818W, on Revenue and Customs: labour turnover, what the age profile is of officers of Revenue and Customs carrying out compliance functions. [70155]

Mr Hoban: The age profile of officers in compliance functions is shown in the following table. The data have been taken at 31 August 2011:

Percentage

	Age group					
	<20	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*>60*
Percentage of compliance officers	0.07	5.26	15.87	35.62	35.64	7.55

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 818W, on Revenue and Customs: labour turnover, how many officers of Revenue and Customs carrying out compliance functions he expects to retire in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [70157]

Mr Hoban: At 1 April 2012 there will potentially be 9.27% of compliance officers who have exceeded or reached 60. This is based on data at 31 August 2011. As there is no longer a mandatory retirement age for the purpose of responding to this question age 60 has been used.

There are a number of factors that affect an individual's decision to retire so it is not possible to predict. However, based on current staff numbers those reaching 60 at each year of the comprehensive spending review period are:

As at 1 April each year	*Number*	*Percentage*
2012	439	1.41
2013	462	1.49
2014	506	1.63
2015	499	1.61

Revenue and Customs: Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on the *(a)* quality and *(b)* availability of face-to-face services provided by HM Revenue and Customs in Washington and Sunderland West constituency. [70103]

Mr Gauke: Like all Government Departments, HMRC must operate cost effectively within its spending review settlement. HMRC does not believe that its settlement has had any material effect on the quality or availability of its face-to-face services. Changes that have been made to the opening hours of the Department's Enquiry Centres followed a public consultation and a full equality impact assessment that predate the spending review.

HMRC's business strategy is designed to ensure that services are tailored to the needs of its customers. The Department keeps under review the range and mix of service channels available to customers, to ensure they remain appropriate. But in line with both the spending review and the business strategy, HMRC will continue to provide face-to-face support for customers who need it—including customers in Washington and Sunderland West.

Tax Avoidance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated monetary rate was of *(a)* tax avoidance and *(b)* tax planning schemes in force in (i) 2000 and (ii) each year since 2005. [70392]

Mr Gauke: The latest tax gap estimates were published in September 2010 in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2010" on HMRC's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

This publication also contained an illustrative breakdown of the tax gap by behaviour for 2007-08. This estimated that avoidance and legal interpretation accounted respectively for 17.5% and 15% of the total tax gap.

HMRC do not produce an estimate of the monetary rate of tax planning schemes; unacceptable tax planning is covered by avoidance.

HMRC will be publishing "Measuring Tax Gaps 2011" on 21 September 2011.

Tax Evasion

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on HM Revenue and Customs' capacity to *(a)* prevent and *(b)* prosecute tax evasion. [70104]

Mr Hoban: Over the next four years HMRC will reinvest £917 million of the savings they make to maximise additional revenues, which will include putting extra resource into tackling both evasion and avoidance.

The reinvestment will fund a range of measures including significantly increasing coverage of the mass market, tackling tax evasion, building on the existing one-to-one client relationship model for large businesses and wealthy individuals, tackling organised crime and a range of interventions designed to collect more debt.

Specifically, HMRC will increase staff tackling evasion and fraud and avoidance by around 2,500 FTEs by 2014-15. Some 200 more criminal investigators and 40 intelligence officers will provide a significant increase in the criminal investigation of evasion cases.

Together this should bring in around £7 billion each year by 2014-15 in additional revenues.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of tax evasion in the last year for which figures are available. [70391]

Mr Gauke: The latest tax gap estimates were published in September 2010 in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2010" on HMRC's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

This publication also contained an illustrative breakdown of the tax gap by behaviour for 2007-08. This estimated that evasion accounted for around 17.5% of the total tax gap, equating to approximately £7 billion.

HMRC will be publishing "Measuring Tax Gaps 2011" on 21 September 2011.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding HM Revenue and Customs allocated to measures to tackle tax evasion in each year since 2005. [70393]

Mr Gauke: It is not possible to provide an answer to the question in the format requested as HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) do not allocate on this basis. Overall funding for HMRC's compliance activity cannot be broken down in this way as its activity - from policy making, through support and education, to audits and investigations - covers all aspects of compliance behaviour from error through to evasion as well as countering criminal attacks and avoidance.

VAT: Fuel

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to give tax relief on VAT on fuel to *(a)* Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and *(b)* other charities. [70083]

Mr Hoban: There is no option to extend VAT relief on fuel to charities that carry out other charitable activities. EU VAT agreements, entered into by successive Governments, do not allow the UK, or any other Member State, to unilaterally extend the scope of existing zero rates, or introduce new ones. However, the Government give very generous support through tax reliefs to the charitable sector. These reliefs allow charities to purchase medicines, medical equipment and certain other specialised equipment, and charities which provide rescue or assistance at sea to purchase fuel, VAT-free.

VAT: Golf

Mr Brine: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect on competition between proprietary and members' golf clubs of the VAT rating applicable to proprietary golf club membership fees. [70180]

Mr Hoban: No assessment has been made. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 402W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey (Gordon Henderson).

VAT: Registration and Tax Yields

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue was raised from VAT receipts in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* each year since 2005; [70384]

(2) how many companies were registered liable to pay VAT in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* each year since 2005; [70385]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of businesses who are not registered for VAT; [70386]

(4) what recent estimate he has made of the increase in VAT receipts arising from the increase in the rate of VAT. [70387]

Mr Gauke: Information on VAT receipts and VAT registered traders are available in the VAT Bulletin

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullvat

No estimate has been made of the number of businesses that are not registered for VAT.

The Exchequer yield from the increase in the standard rate of VAT to 20% was published in the June 2010 Budget

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_costings.htm

CABINET OFFICE

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Buying Solutions suppliers are *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* large companies based in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Northern Ireland, (iv) London and the Home Counties, (v) East Anglia and Lincolnshire, (vi) the Midlands, (vii) the North West including Merseyside and Lancashire and (viii) the North East. [69337]

Mr Maude: Breakdown of suppliers on Government Procurement Service frameworks 2010-11 is in the table:

Region	*SME suppliers*	*Large suppliers*	*Unknown status*	*Total*
Wales	11	8	2	21
Scotland	7	9	1	17
Northern Island	11	8	3	22
London and the home counties	367	343	30	740
East Anglia including Lincolnshire	18	12	0	30
Midlands	117	104	7	228
North West including Merseyside and Lancashire	64	57	8	129
North East	62	40	4	106
National/no region specified	63	39	37	139
Total	720	620	92	1,432

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in the Prime Minister's office as of 1 July 2011. [69502]

Mr Maude: As of 1 July 2011 the Prime Minister's office and Deputy Prime Minister's office had no individuals undertaking unpaid work experience or any unpaid interns, or individuals in unpaid positions in either office. However, there were 16 individuals on paid placements within the entire Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's and Deputy Prime Minister's offices, on either apprenticeships or graduate internships.

The Social Mobility Strategy, published in April 2011, clearly states that we want to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to fulfil their potential. Making work experience and internships available to young people from all walks of life is a key element of this. I am pleased that the Government are leading by example in Whitehall with a new internship programme for under-represented groups. The new Whitehall Internship Scheme has been developed in response to a pledge in the coalition agreement which states that the Government will provide internships in every Whitehall Department for under-represented groups, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. Government Departments began their participation in the scheme over the summer, with the Cabinet Office committed to offering 20 places by the end of the financial year.

SMEs

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office who the members are of his Department's SME Panel. [70040]

Mr Maude: The 25 members of the SME Panel are drawn from SMEs who represent a cross section of regions and industry sectors.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) on how many occasions he has met the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Crown Representative; [70072]

(2) when he last met the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Crown Representative; [70073]

(3) when he next plans to meet the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Crown Representative. [70074]

Mr Maude: I meet the Crown Representative for small and medium-sized enterprises frequently.

Royalties

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost to industry of offering software and technology products to Government on a royalty free basis. [70113]

Mr Maude: Government have no intention of demanding the intellectual property for all ICT solutions it specifies. The proper place for discussion of these rights is during contract negotiation.

The current policy states that intellectual property relating to solutions provided by the private sector for public sector contracts should remain with the party best placed to exploit them. This ensures that, wherever sensible, business can retain their IP to use with other clients and internationally.

As outlined in the Government ICT Strategy[1], published in March 2011, the Government is committed to creating a level playing field for open source software for Government ICT procurement. We recognise that open source solutions present significant opportunities for improved value for money and the stimulation of a more competitive ICT environment. We are therefore taking positive action to encourage the use of open source in Departments, where cost is equal to, or less than, the lifetime costs of proprietary software.

The Government will publish guidance on intellectual property related to public procurement later this year, to raise awareness in the public sector and industry.

[1] Available online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/uk-government-government-ict-strategy_0.pdf

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations he has received from industry on procurement policy Action Note 3/11. [70114]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office has met with representatives and members of Open Forum Europe, Intellect and the Business Software Alliance to discuss Action Note 3/11. In addition, written correspondence has been received from several individual suppliers.

The UK Government Open Standards Survey included an opportunity to provide feedback on the criteria which define an open standard, which is included in Action Note 3/11—over 400 contributions were received. These are currently being considered with a Government response is due in October.

Thameslink: Rolling stock

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* instructions and *(b)* advice was given by his Department to the Department for Transport on the conduct of the procurement for the Thameslink rolling stock contract [68845]

Mr Maude: Unless asked to do so, the Cabinet Office does not give instructions or guidance on specific procurement projects, which remain the responsibility of the sponsoring Department.

Unemployment

Julie Elliott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1337W, on unemployment, how many children in *(a)* the City of Sunderland and *(b)* the North East were living in workless households in the latest period for which figures are available. [68909]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many children in (a) the City of Sunderland and (b) the North East were living in workless households in the latest period for which figures are available. (68909)

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset. The latest data currently available is for 2009. The table shows estimates for Sunderland and the North East. Further information can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lmac/workless-households-for-regions-across-the-uk/2010/rft-table-c-children-areas.xls

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) produces a timelier estimate of children in workless households:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lmac/working-and-workless-households/2011/table-m.xls

However these estimates are only provided down to Regions and so estimates are not available for local authority. Therefore, in order to maintain consistency, the APS is used for all geographical areas.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. These estimates are such that there is 95 per cent certainty that from all samples possible they will lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Table 1: Children in workless households[1] in Sunderland local authority and the North East

Thousand

January-December 2009	*Estimate*	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
Sunderland	14	10	19
North East	94	84	105

[1] Households containing at least one person aged 16-64, where all individuals aged 16 or over are not in employment.

[2] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Source:

APS household dataset

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government: Carbon Emissions

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance he is giving to local authorities to assist them in reducing their emissions; and if he will make a statement. [71199]

Andrew Stunell: This Department is working with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to develop the Green Deal, which will provide the means for households and landlords, including local authorities, to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. A number of local authorities are already undertaking trailblazer retrofit projects in advance of the Green Deal and we are encouraging others to consider forming partnerships, for example, with energy providers and other private sector organisations, to deliver Green Deal in their area.

It should also be noted that DECC are working with the Local Government Group, and directly with many local authorities, to promote Green Deal delivery and wider carbon reduction activity, particularly in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding between DECC and the Local Government Group and the development of local government's proposed new Nottingham Declaration.

Local Government: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the opt out rates for the Local Government Pension Scheme were in each year from 2006 to 2010. [71216]

Robert Neill: The information in the form requested is not held centrally. Individual Scheme administering authorities will have details of those who have left the Scheme before their normal retirement age.

Private Rented Housing: Energy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to improve standards of energy efficiency in the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [71198]

Andrew Stunell: The Government will be introducing the Green Deal in late 2012 to provide the means for households and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. The Green Deal will enable energy efficiency measures to be installed at no up-front cost, through a Green Deal provider, and paid for through energy bill savings over time. The Energy Bill includes provision to introduce a minimum energy efficiency standard for private rented sector housing in 2018. The Government are committed to ensuring that there are no net negative costs to landlords. The Bill also proposes a requirement for landlords to provide consent to reasonable requests from tenants for energy efficiency improvements, in 2016.

Trade Unions: Subscriptions

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the trade unions recognised by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies charge a political levy on staff trade union subscription fees; whether the political levy may be deducted at payroll level; and what the policy of his Department and each public body is on informing staff joining such unions of the right to opt out of payment of the political levy. [61783]

Robert Neill: The following table sets out the trade union recognised by the main Department and the 10 sponsored bodies that have collective bargaining agreements:

Organisation	Trade Union(s)
DCLG (Main Department)	Prospect, PCS and FDA
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	Prospect, PCS and FDA
QEII Conference Centre (QEII CC)	PCS
The Audit Commission	Prospect
Fire Service College (FSC)	Prospect and GMB
Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)	PCS, UNISON and Unite
Independent Housing Ombudsman Ltd (IHOL)	Unite
Tenant Services Authority (TSA)	Unite
Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS)	UNISON
Standards for England (SFE)	PCS
Ordnance Survey	Prospect and PCS

With the exception of Valuation Tribunal Service and Ordnance Survey all the organisations shown offer the facility to deduct subscription fees through payroll if requested.

Notwithstanding, given departmental resources are used to facilitate the payment of union subscriptions including the political levy, direct from the DCLG payroll (under so-called 'check off' arrangements), I appreciate there is a broader public interest in scrutinising this matter.

In that context, as an illustration, I observe that PCS campaigning leaflets, handed out within my Department, do not inform DCLG staff members of their statutory right to opt-out of the political levy when they join, and they correspondingly are signed up to have their union membership fee deducted direct from their DCLG pay packet.

Such a collection of the political levy is clearly not a transparent practice. The consideration of the right to opt-out cannot be an informed choice or decision if individuals are simply not informed of that right.

I am depositing in the Library of the House a typical membership form/campaigning leaflet that has been distributed inside my Department to inform hon. Members of these practices.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Boundary Commission for Wales: Public Appointments

Guto Bebb: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to announce the appointment of commissioners to the Boundary Commission for Wales. [70725]

Mr Harper: The Government have begun the process to appoint new Commissioners to the Boundary Commission for Wales, following the Code of Practice published by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. I expect the appointments to be made in October 2011.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his office as of 1 July 2011. [69516]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

As of 1 July 2011 the Prime Minister's office and Deputy Prime Minister's office had no individuals undertaking unpaid work experience or any unpaid interns, or individuals in unpaid positions in either office. However, there were 16 individuals on paid placements within the entire Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's and Deputy Prime Minister's offices, on either apprenticeships or graduate internships.

The Social Mobility Strategy published in April 2011 clearly states that we want to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to fulfil their potential. Making work experience and internships available to young people from all walks of life is a key element of this. I am pleased that the Government are leading by example in Whitehall with a new internship programme for under-represented groups. The new Whitehall Internship Scheme has been developed in response to a pledge in the coalition agreement which states that the Government will provide internships in every Whitehall Department for under-represented groups, including black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. Government Departments began their participation in the scheme over the summer, with the Cabinet Office committed to offering 20 places by the end of the financial year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households which have purchased additional equipment in order to access fully the new digital television signal in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK to date; and if he will make a statement. [70158]

Mr Vaizey: The Government do not collect these statistics. The matter is primarily one for Digital UK, the independent not-for-profit company leading the implementation of switchover. Digital UK does not hold the information requested, but data from Digital UK's switchover tracker survey shows that in December 2010, five months before switchover in Glasgow, 88% of TV sets across the STV Central region were equipped to receive digital television services. Across the UK as a whole in December 2010, 83% of TV sets were equipped to receive digital television services. Statistics are not held on the reasons for making purchases of digital television equipment.

Radio Frequencies

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has assessed the potential effects on the Government's commitment to provide universal broadband coverage by 2015 if the auction of the 800MHz and 2,600MHz spectrum does not take place by mid 2012. [70374]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The timing of the auction is unlikely to impact on the delivery of universal broadband coverage by 2015.

Telecommunications

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the functional equivalence of Ofcom's proposal for a video relay service. [70703]

Mr Vaizey: As the Government made clear in responding to their consultation on implementing the revised EU Electronic Communications Framework—which includes measures to advance access and choice for disabled end-users—equivalence is a broad concept and not tied to any particular service. It is for the independent national regulator, Ofcom, to assess what needs to be done to advance that access and choice for disabled end-users and what obligations might be placed on communications providers to make communications more accessible to those with hearing and speech difficulties and other disabilities. In making those determinations, and ahead of any intervention in sector, Ofcom is obliged to undertake a public consultation to fulfil the prerequisite legal obligation on them, under domestic and European law, to ensure that any decision it makes ensures proportionality and transparency, and that their decision is non-discriminatory and objectively justifiable. Its current review of relay services will inform those tests.

Consequently, no formal assessment of the functional equivalence of Ofcom's proposal for a video relay service has been undertaken by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, although officials have worked closely with Ofcom, as it has developed their proposals.

Ofcom's current review of the provision of relay services in the UK includes proposals for a package of improvements to existing relay provision. These proposals include the introduction of Next Generation Text Relay (NGTR), enabling support for two way simultaneous communication with live captions/text; and the introduction, on a non-commercial basis, of an allocated amount of access to video relay for the deaf, hearing-impaired and British Sign Language (BSL) users. The Secretary of State welcomes these proposals for improvements in relay provision in the UK and is confident they will deliver economic and social benefits to deaf, hearing impaired and BSL end-users of electronic communications.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the functional equivalence of Ofcom's proposal for a video relay service. [71452]

Mr Vaizey: As the Government made clear in responding to their consultation on implementing the revised EU Electronic Communications Framework—which includes measures to advance access and choice for disabled end-users—equivalence is a broad concept and not tied to any particular service. It is for the independent national regulator, Ofcom, to assess what needs to be done to advance that access and choice for disabled end-users and what obligations might be placed on communications providers to make communications more accessible to those with hearing and speech difficulties and other disabilities. In making those determinations, and ahead of any intervention in sector, Ofcom is obliged to undertake a public consultation to fulfil the prerequisite legal obligation on it, under domestic and European law, to ensure that any decision they make ensures proportionality and transparency, and that its decision is non-discriminatory and objectively justifiable. Its current review of relay services will inform those tests.

Consequently, no formal assessment of the functional equivalence of Ofcom's proposal for a video relay service has been undertaken by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the right hon. Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), although officials have worked closely with Ofcom, as it has developed its proposals.

Ofcom's current review of the provision of relay services in the UK includes proposals for a package of improvements to existing relay provision. These proposals include the introduction of Next Generation Text Relay (NGTR), enabling support for two way simultaneous communication with live captions/text; and the introduction, on a non-commercial basis, of an allocated amount of access to video relay for the deaf, hearing-impaired and British Sign Language (BSL) users. The Secretary of State welcomes these proposals for improvements in relay provision in the UK and is confident they will deliver economic and social benefits to deaf, hearing impaired and BSL end-users of electronic communications.

Television: Licensing

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many pensioners have received free television licences in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [70449]

Mr Vaizey: The administration and enforcement of the television licensing system is the responsibility of the BBC which operates independently of the Government.

The BBC does not record the numbers of free TV Licences issued on a constituency or regional basis.

The BBC has provided the number of free TV Licences issued to persons aged 75 or over throughout the UK, since the concession was introduced on 1 November 2000, as shown in the following table.

	Number of free TV licences issued to persons in the UK aged 75 or over
2000-01	3,002,549
2001-02	3,381,000
2002-03	3,395,772

	Number of free TV licences issued to persons in the UK aged 75 or over
2003-04	3,490,877
2004-05	3,548,595
2005-06	3,604,026
2006-07	3,665,879
2007-08	3,709,445
2008-09	3,776,118
2009-10	3,853,911
2010-11	3,929,753
Total	39,357,925

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Armed Conflict: Diamonds

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to prevent conflict diamonds being sold in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [70784]

Mr Bellingham: The UK was a founding member of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), launched in 2003 to prevent 'conflict diamonds' from entering the legitimate diamond trade. The KPCS imposes strict requirements on its members to enable them to certify that shipments of rough diamonds are 'conflict-free'. Since the launch of the KPCS, 'conflict diamonds' now represent less than 1% of the global trade in rough diamonds, compared to 15% in the 1990s.

The British Government are committed to implementing the KPCS, eradicating trade in 'conflict diamonds' and working with the international community to strengthen the scheme. The Government Diamond Office, based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is responsible for overseeing UK implementation of the KPCS. We work closely with UK Customs and law enforcement agencies to maintain robust import and export procedures to prevent 'conflict diamonds' from entering the UK.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met representatives of Bahraini opposition parties. [70173]

Alistair Burt: I have not met representatives of the Bahraini opposition parties. Our ambassador in Bahrain will be meeting with representatives of all political parties.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the Bahraini ambassador. [70174]

Alistair Burt: Bahrain is currently between ambassadors. When the new ambassador arrives, my officials will be holding substantive discussions with her on a wide range of topics.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the provision of support for political reforms in Bahrain. [70175]

Alistair Burt: The United Kingdom supports political reform in Bahrain, as essential for Bahrain's long-term stability. Full participation in the political process is in the interests of all parties. We welcomed His Majesty King Hamad's pledge to initiate reforms during his Ramadan address, following the end of the National Dialogue process. Implementation will now be essential.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests for meetings he has received from Bahraini opposition spokespersons; and how many such requests he has agreed to. [70176]

Alistair Burt: I have not had any requests for meetings from spokespersons of Bahrain's opposition societies.

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training is provided to officials based in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* embassies and high commissions on assistance for the families of British nationals murdered overseas. [70102]

Mr Bellingham: All consular staff in London and abroad undergo pass/fail training before taking up their duties. Much of this is delivered by professional external trainers and includes specific modules on death in violent and suspicious circumstances and on bereavement. Staff refresh their skills by attending consular workshops held regularly at posts around the world which also include specific modules on deaths in violent or suspicious circumstances and bereavement.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* organisations and *(b)* Government Departments are represented on the Death Abroad Working Group. [70130]

Mr Bellingham: The Death Abroad Working Group includes representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Home Office Pathologist, Missing Abroad, Victim Support Homicide Service, European RoadPeace, Coroners Society of England and Wales and Support After Murder and Manslaughter Abroad.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the draft memorandum of understanding on murder, manslaughter and infanticide of British nationals abroad to come into effect. [70131]

Mr Bellingham: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is co-ordinating drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which will apply for both the deceased and their family. The MoU clarifies the role of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Victim Support National Homicide Service and Coroners Society of England and Wales. The FCO is ready to sign. NPIA has advised FCO officials that they are carrying out further amendments and a final version will be ready for signature in early December.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what resources his Department has made available to support the families of victims of murder and manslaughter abroad. [70441]

Mr Bellingham: In addition to staff resources in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and at our embassies, high commissions and consulates abroad, the FCO has entered into an agreement with the Victim Support National Homicide Service to provide funding of up to £100,000 per year for financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13 to enable them to commission services on behalf of bereaved families in England and Wales when a British national dies as a result of murder, manslaughter or infanticide abroad.

Commonwealth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the application of South Sudan to join the Commonwealth. [70881]

Mr Bellingham: I fully support South Sudan's application to join the Commonwealth. A decision on whether South Sudan is admitted will be for all member states. Should South Sudan meet the standard for Commonwealth membership, this will give South Sudan the benefits and support that come from being part of a global network as they build their new country.

Crimes against Humanity

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Ethiopia on allowing a UN Commission of Enquiry access to Somali Region State to investigate allegations of crimes against humanity. [70686]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are greatly concerned by the allegations of serious human rights abuses in some parts of Ethiopia's Somali regional state. We receive frequent reports of human rights abuses by both Government security forces and the Ogaden National Liberation Front. We have on many occasions called on the Ethiopian Government to allow a credible and independent investigation, both in private conversations and in public, such as during the British Government's statement at the last UN Universal Periodic Review of Ethiopia's human rights. One option that we would support would be an investigation under the auspices of the UN. Our requests, however, have consistently been rejected.

With regard to access, of the nine zones in the Somali region, five are subject to varying access restrictions (Gode, Degaxbur, Warder, Korahe and Fik). UK officials travel frequently to these zones, and I visited as well in July, although permission is needed for most travel, even in the less conflict-affected areas, and is sometimes problematic.

The Government are also extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Somali region, where some 1.5 million drought-affected people need assistance. Access by humanitarian agencies is very limited due to a combination of security threats to aid workers and restrictions imposed by the Somali Regional Government. We have urged the Ethiopian Government to increase access to allow greater provision of humanitarian assistance.

I raised my concerns about the situation in the Somali region with the regional president when I visited Jijiga in late July. The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), made similar representations to Prime Minister Meles in June.

Diplomatic Relations

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the criteria for establishing diplomatic relations with Governments. [71003]

Mr Bellingham: Article 2 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 states that "the establishment of diplomatic relations between States, and of permanent diplomatic missions, take place by mutual consent". The Foreign and Commonwealth Office would consider establishing diplomatic relations when deemed to be appropriate and in the UK interest.

Eritrea

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to press the Government of Ethiopia to abide by the Independent Boundary Commission's ruling on the demarcation of the border with Eritrea. [71374]

Mr Bellingham: The UK Government continue to believe that the Ethiopia-Eritrea border must be demarcated in accordance with the ruling of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission. We are concerned by the lack of progress, which has damaging consequences for Eritrea, Ethiopia and the stability of the wider region. The UK Government have encouraged both sides to engage in dialogue as we believe this could help to move beyond the status quo. We do not consider dialogue to be a pre-requisite to initiating the process of demarcation, however, and we have made clear to the Ethiopian Government the importance of taking practical steps to begin demarcation without further delay. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), raised this issue with Prime Minister Meles when he visited Ethiopia in July, and with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hailemariam when they met in London in June.

Ethiopia

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when UK Government officials were last granted access to the Ogaden region in Ethiopia; and under what conditions. [70687]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are greatly concerned by the allegations of serious human rights abuses in some parts of Ethiopia's Somali regional state. We receive frequent reports of human rights abuses by both Government security forces and the Ogaden National Liberation Front. We have on many occasions called on the Ethiopian Government to allow a credible and independent investigation, both in private conversations and in public, such as during the British Government's statement at the last UN Universal Periodic Review of Ethiopia's human rights. One option that we would support would be an investigation under the auspices of the UN. Our requests, however, have consistently been rejected.

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I raised my concerns about the situation in the Somali region with the regional president when I visited Jijiga in late July. The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), made similar representations to Prime Minister Meles in June.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the prevalence of female genital mutilation in Gambia; and if he will make a statement. [71087]

Mr Bellingham: The British Government strongly condemn female genital mutilation (FGM) as an abhorrent form of violence against girls and women.

We welcome current efforts, supported by the Gambian Government, to eradicate female genital mutilation in The Gambia by 2012. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), as part of its programme to promote sexual and reproductive health in The Gambia, works hard on this issue, alongside a range of non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations such as the Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (GAMCOTRAP). The EU also works closely with and supports GAMCOTRAP, as does our high commission in Banjul. In July, the British high commissioner attended an all-day event in the Lower River Region of The Gambia to celebrate GAMCOTRAP's progress on eradicating FGM in that region.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Spanish counterpart on Gibraltar. [70876]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I have regular contact with our Spanish counterparts on a wide range of issues. Any discussions that we have on Gibraltar reflect our clear position on sovereignty, which is that the UK will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their wishes. Furthermore, the UK will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to visit Gibraltar. [70884]

Mr Lidington: I visited Gibraltar on 12-13 April 2011. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs currently has no plans to visit Gibraltar.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are based in Gibraltar. [70912]

Mr Lidington: There are currently approximately 20 officials in the Governor's Office in Gibraltar. This figure includes UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Human Rights

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on human rights in the Ogaden region of the Somali Region State in Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [70685]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are greatly concerned by the allegations of serious human rights abuses in some parts of Ethiopia's Somali regional state. We receive frequent reports of human rights abuses by both Government security forces and the Ogaden National Liberation Front. We have on many occasions called on the Ethiopian Government to allow a credible and independent investigation, both in private conversations and in public, such as during the British Government's statement at the last UN Universal Periodic Review of Ethiopia's human rights. One option that we would support would be an investigation under the auspices of the UN. Our requests, however, have consistently been rejected.

With regard to access, of the nine zones in the Somali region, five are subject to varying access restrictions (Gode, Degaxbur, Warder, Korahe and Fik). UK officials travel frequently to these zones, and I visited as well in July, although permission is needed for most travel, even in the less conflict-affected areas, and is sometimes problematic.

The Government are also extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Somali region, where some 1.5 million drought-affected people need assistance. Access by humanitarian agencies is very limited due to a combination of security threats to aid workers and restrictions imposed by the Somali Regional Government. We have urged the Ethiopian Government to increase access to allow greater provision of humanitarian assistance.

I raised my concerns about the situation in the Somali region with the regional president when I visited Jijiga in late July. The Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), made similar representations to Prime Minister Meles in June.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with officials from the *(a)* EU and *(b)* UN regarding human rights in Zimbabwe. [70886]

Mr Bellingham: Although my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not personally raised the question of human rights with the EU or UN in recent months, I regularly discuss Zimbabwe issues, including human rights, with EU partners. Officials are also in regular contact with EU and UN officials on this issue.

The UK ambassador to the UN in Geneva raised concern about the situation in Zimbabwe in a statement at the UN Human Rights Council on 15 June. The UK will be seeking to speak at the UN Human Rights Council on 10 October when Zimbabwe will go through the Universal Periodic Review.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made concerning the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran, including the imprisonment of community leaders by that country; and if he will make a statement. [70250]

Alistair Burt: We remain deeply concerned at the ongoing plight of members of the Baha'i faith in Iran, including the 20-year sentences imposed on seven Baha'i leaders on charges of establishing an illegal organisation, following a trial that failed to meet international standards. We are also deeply concerned about the recent closure of the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education and arrest of members of staff. These form part of a wider pattern of harassment of Baha'is in Iran. We regularly raise these issues with the Iranian authorities, including when I met the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in August this year. We will continue to press the Iranian Government to accord their people full rights of religious expression.

Libya: Terrorism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his counterpart in the Libyan Transitional National Council evidence that links the former government of Libya with the bombing of flight UTA 772. [70056]

Alistair Burt: The National Transitional Council has stated publicly that a future Libyan Government will investigate the crimes of the former Gaddafi regime, and has asked the United Nations for advice on establishing a transitional justice programme. We would expect the bombing of flight UTA 772 to be included in such a process.

Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* New Zealand and *(b)* French counterpart on the Pitcairn Islands. [70868]

Mr Bellingham: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly liaise with their counterparts in New Zealand, France and French Polynesia over a range of issues that affect Pitcairn, including policing, medical and shipping matters. Neither the Secretary of State nor I have been involved in any of these discussions ourselves.

Southern Sudan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are based in South Sudan. [70907]

Mr Bellingham: The embassy in South Sudan is one of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's small posts, which have five or fewer staff members including UK based civil servants and staff engaged locally. For operational and security reasons we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Sri Lankan counterpart on the humanitarian situation in that country. [68869]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr Duncan) on 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 709W.

Sudan

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the role of the *(a)* UN Interim Security Force for Abyei and *(b)* UN Mission in Sudan in relation to the borders of Sudan and South Sudan. [70724]

Mr Bellingham: The UN Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) has a key role. Now it has established an operating capability in Abyei, we expect to see a full withdrawal by the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. We welcome the 30 July agreement by Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa, covering deployment of a border monitoring support mission as part of UNISFA. However, the UN Security Council has not yet mandated UNISFA to monitor the border between Sudan and South Sudan. The UN Mission in Sudan ended on 9 July and is now drawing down.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask HM ambassador in Rabat to investigate reports of an attack on journalists by the Moroccan security forces during a demonstration in El Aaiún, Western Sahara on 12 August 2011. [70036]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports of an attack on journalists by the Moroccan security forces during demonstrations in Laayoune, on 12 August 2011. Our ambassador in Rabat is in close contact with the Moroccan authorities at a senior level, including the new National Council of Human Rights, which is mandated to investigate allegations of this kind. We will be monitoring its performance in advance of next year's Security Council discussions on Western Sahara.

There is a regular EU-Morocco human rights dialogue and we will continue to discuss human rights including freedom of the press with Morocco bilaterally and with EU partners.

EDUCATION

Academies

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average cost to each local authority of processing and implementing applications from schools for academy status. [68792]

Mr Gibb: Careful consideration has been given to the cost to schools', local authorities and other organisations involved in the conversion of schools to academy status. Costs to local authorities will vary depending on the complexities of local arrangements and are, for example, associated with their responsibilities to conduct the TUPE consultation, land transfer and where relevant agreeing a Commercial Transfer Agreement. We have sought to minimise costs by making the process simple and straightforward. This includes producing model documentation, such as leases. Each conversion is also assigned a dedicated Project Lead who will aim to hold early discussions with the local authorities and the schools involved to agree an approach in order to make the conversion process as efficient and cost-effective as possible.

Academies: Teachers

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the ability of academy schools to acquire visas for foreign teachers. [70432]

Mr Gibb: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education has not received any representations on the ability of academies to acquire visas for foreign teachers. The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), as the agency responsible for funding and supporting academies, has received inquiries from three academies on the arrangements for employing non-European economic area nationals as teachers. The YPLA has provided these schools with advice based on guidance available on the Department for Education website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/careeropportunities/overseas-trainedteachers/a0077487/uk-border-agency-ukba-requirements-for-bringing-overseas-trained-teachers-to-the-uk

Adoption

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average length of time was between a child being approved for adoption by the courts and their placement with an adoptive family for each local authority in each of the last five years. [68882]

Tim Loughton: Information on the average length of time between the making of a freeing order or a placement order and the child's placement with an adoptive family is shown in the following table.

The table shows information for each local authority for the years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, where each year accounts for the number of looked after children who were first placed for adoption in that year. The average time is measured from the date of the freeing order or placement order, which may have occurred in the same, or a previous year and the date the child was placed for adoption. The table does not include those children for whom a court has made a placement order but who are yet to be placed for adoption.

Prior to 30 December 2005 local authorities could place a child for adoption without a freeing order or parental consent. From 30 December 2005, local authorities can place a child for adoption only with parental consent or with a placement order. A child may be placed for adoption with parental consent before a placement order is made. Numbers and averages exclude children who were placed for adoption without a freeing order or were placed for adoption prior to the making of a placement order.

Table 1: Average length of time between the making of a freeing order or a placement order and the child's placement with prospective adopters during the year by local authority[1,2,3,4], Years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, Coverage: England

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	No. of children placed for adoption during the year	Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement	No. of children placed for adoption during the year	Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement	No. of children placed for adoption during the year	Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement	No. of children placed for adoption during the year	Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement	No. of children placed for adoption during the year	Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement
England	1,730	144	2,240	135	2,790	174	2,760	203	2,330	224

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	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	No. of children placed for adoption during the year	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*
North East	130	95	160	121	170	145	230	154	170	201
Darlington	5	47	5	93	x	x	x	x	x	x
Durham	x	x	20	91	15	101	30	182	20	228
Gateshead	15	72	15	120	10	66	30	83	20	167
Hartlepool	x	0	5	56	10	14	5	87	15	200
Middlesbrough	15	136	10	51	15	212	15	133	20	174
Newcastle upon Tyne	20	103	15	43	20	53	30	87	20	193
North Tyneside	15	88	15	131	15	122	30	251	10	319
Northumberland	10	36	20	109	10	120	10	111	5	192
Redcar and Cleveland	10	175	5	107	10	239	10	274	5	113
South Tyneside	20	106	25	130	25	92	25	54	20	74
Stockton-on-Tees	S	212	10	310	10	264	10	248	5	190
Sunderland	10	52	15	210	25	278	30	226	25	314
North West	310	154	330	179	480	184	450	236	380	251
Blackburn with Darwen	15	93	15	202	15	218	10	230	20	250
Blackpool	15	161	25	201	20	198	20	240	10	351
Bolton	25	186	20	174	25	152	40	184	25	249
Bury	15	110	10	227	10	214	10	23	x	x
Cheshire[5]	20	88	10	105	15	165	x	x	n/a	n/a
Cheshire East[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	426
Cheshire West and Chester[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	x	x
Cumbria	15	188	20	115	30	173	25	255	35	322
Halton	0	0	x	x	5	190	15	171	10	162
Knowsley	10	26	10	68	10	21	5	63	10	203
Lancashire	50	129	45	80	75	152	60	285	50	299
Liverpool	5	111	20	195	45	91	30	73	15	112
Manchester	15	123	20	117	20	326	35	213	15	62
Oldham	10	298	15	405	30	258	30	277	15	352
Rochdale	20	235	15	321	20	198	20	317	15	214
Salford	15	180	20	181	30	188	30	245	25	336
Sefton	10	45	10	91	20	200	10	392	15	252
St Helens	x	x	x	x	25	242	15	279	10	199
Stockport	15	45	15	136	20	164	15	217	15	250
Tameside	15	94	15	182	20	211	20	255	25	334
Trafford	x	x	5	32	5	13	15	217	x	x
Warrington	x	x	10	65	10	201	10	322	10	238
Wig an	15	482	15	520	15	259	20	393	20	296
Wirral	10	124	5	126	15	230	10	213	10	318
Yorkshire and the Humber	400	166	320	194	400	215	360	247	350	275
Barnsley	20	93	15	105	20	139	15	177	20	282
Bradford	45	143	35	321	35	203	35	240	25	294
Calderdale	15	165	20	300	20	292	15	315	15	314
Don caster	15	52	25	95	30	178	30	232	20	301
East Riding of Yorkshire	25	169	10	90	15	281	20	405	x	x
Kingston upon Hull, City of	35	95	35	174	30	253	45	240	45	325
Kirklees	35	261	25	209	30	253	25	253	20	242
Leeds	55	226	50	189	80	179	50	183	45	266

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North East Lincolnshire	15	288	x	x	x	x	x	x	25	260
North Lincolnshire	x	x	x	x	15	188	15	223	10	276
North Yorkshire	25	161	15	307	20	281	15	196	5	124
Rotherham	30	298	15	124	15	225	15	374	35	270
Sheffield	50	215	45	175	55	242	40	328	40	324
Wakefield	20	243	15	119	20	168	15	126	20	91
York	15	105	10	208	5	164	10	90	10	154
East Midlands	100	152	190	97	280	149	210	179	190	205
Derby	20	355	35	164	25	324	35	317	40	303
Derbyshire	20	193	30	10	50	39	45	32	20	60
Leicester	15	64	20	103	20	192	20	147	20	157
Leicestershire	15	74	15	117	15	126	10	146	x	x
Lincolnshire	10	60	20	134	35	92	25	128	25	144
Northamptonshire	15	120	35	66	50	168	35	243	40	241
Nottingham	x	x	15	97	45	228	20	232	25	206
Nottinghamshire	x	x	15	120	40	109	20	232	20	261
Rutland	x	x	0	0	x	x	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	290	133	330	122	320	203	340	219	250	200
Birmingham	55	136	60	180	75	315	75	311	55	313
Coventry	20	292	20	86	35	224	30	238	10	245
Dudley	30	166	20	141	20	226	20	246	20	213
Herefordshire	10	246	x	x	10	109	5	155	0	0
Sandwell	10	211	25	104	20	319	15	116	5	260
Shropshire	10	33	x	x	10	31	x	x	10	52
Solihull	x	x	15	88	x	x	x	x	x	x
Staffordshire	25	92	45	80	30	204	35	173	25	132
Stoke-on-Trent	15	99	25	124	35	118	40	291	20	228
Telford and Wrekin	10	210	15	96	x	x	15	103	25	65
Walsall	35	108	45	97	25	103	30	164	30	170
Warwickshire	15	94	20	64	15	84	20	194	20	115
Wolverhampton	30	62	15	109	15	156	20	119	20	225
Worcestershire	20	131	25	206	25	221	25	197	15	276
East of England	170	141	220	137	300	188	280	222	240	235
Bedfordshire[3]	x	x	10	41	10	207	x	x	n/a	n/a
Bedford Borough[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	64
Central Bedfordshire[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Cambridgeshire	10	51	20	135	15	126	25	126	x	x
Essex	50	175	55	169	50	235	45	275	40	277
Hertfordshire	15	37	20	69	50	168	45	200	30	261
Luton	0	0	10	96	15	140	15	194	5	53
Norfolk	40	152	35	155	50	152	50	273	45	213
Peterborough	5	149	25	122	35	147	25	152	35	231
Southend-on-Sea	x	x	x	x	10	272	5	88	10	134
Suffolk	40	146	40	162	60	251	60	268	60	295
Thurrock	5	0	x	x	10	32	x	x	5	20
London	60	65	220	72	340	139	310	161	230	223
Inner London	40	78	80	99	160	105	140	163	120	207

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Camden	0	0	x	x	10	186	x	x	5	55
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	x
Hackney	x	x	x	x	x	x	10	105	x	x
Hammersmith and Fulham	x	x	15	77	5	0	x	x	5	118
Haringey	x	x	5	82	10	118	10	240	10	336
Islington	5	78	x	x	10	109	10	226	x	x
Kensington and Chelsea	x	x	x	x	5	149	x	x	x	x
Lambeth	x	x	10	318	10	291	20	311	20	306
Lewisham	0	0	x	x	15	35	25	143	20	168
Newham	0	0	10	17	20	24	25	138	20	168
Southwark	x	x	10	16	25	77	20	115	15	263
Tower Hamlets	x	x	5	71	15	91	10	41	x	x
Wandsworth	10	108	x	x	15	132	x	x	10	246
Westminster	x	x	10	83	15	176	5	50	x	x
Outer London	20	40	130	55	180	169	170	158	110	240
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0	15	106	15	177	x	x
Barnet	0	0	10	63	10	107	15	185	x	x
Bexley	x	x	15	100	10	110	10	230	x	x
Brent	0	0	10	51	10	253	10	268	x	x
Bromley	0	0	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	x	x	10	19	15	166	10	8	x	x
Ealing	x	x	20	53	15	129	10	107	10	40
Enfield	x	x	20	62	15	116	10	198	10	242
Greenwich	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0
Harrow	x	x	10	74	5	165	15	125	10	55
Havering	5	52	x	x	15	153	10	134	10	587
Hillingdon	0	0	x	x	15	285	15	106	10	186
Hounslow	0	0	10	53	10	193	15	221	15	242
Kingston Upon Thames	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Merton	0	0	5	55	x	x	0	0	x	x
Redbridge	0	0	x	x	5	158	5	259	x	x
Richmond Upon Thames	0	0	x	x	x	x	10	44	0	0
Sutton	0	0	x	x	10	266	x	x	x	x
Waltham Forest	x	x	x	x	10	186	10	256	15	346
South East	130	118	290	141	290	159	350	203	320	176
Bracknell Forest	0	0	5	66	0	0	x	x	0	0
Brighton and Hove	10	140	15	121	20	75	30	196	20	158
Buckinghamshire	x	x	5	77	15	229	15	224	10	182
East Sussex	5	40	30	102	10	68	35	277	20	157
Hampshire	x	x	35	144	20	179	25	183	40	205
Isle of Wight	0	0	5	74	x	x	5	177	5	117
Kent	65	153	70	198	80	164	60	151	45	210
Medway Towns	15	74	10	140	25	122	15	227	10	151
Milton Keynes	15	168	10	192	10	344	10	279	10	290
Oxfordshire	x	x	x	x	15	172	20	207	20	146
Portsmouth	x	x	x	x	x	x	10	101	10	124
Reading	x	x	x	x	5	157	15	176	10	175
Slough	x	x	5	215	10	125	10	321	x	x
Southampton	x	x	10	116	10	182	15	168	20	100

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	2006		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*		*2010*	
	No. of children placed for adoption during the year	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*	*No. of children placed for adoption during the year*	*Average time (days) between the making of a freeing or placement order and placement*
Surrey	5	56	20	83	20	180	45	236	40	178
West Berkshire	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
West Sussex	x	x	40	131	25	135	30	224	40	165
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	5	113	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wokingham	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	5	252
South West	140	124	180	93	220	145	230	158	200	220
Bath and North East Somerset	x	x	10	72	5	228	x	x	x	x
Bournemouth	10	91	10	34	5	112	5	45	5	0
Bristol, City of	10	55	25	130	30	107	30	122	30	219
Cornwall	25	144	30	100	40	157	25	180	30	208
Devon	x	x	20	79	35	148	15	154	15	281
Dorset	5	115	x	x	x	x	15	43	x	x
Gloucestershire	15	62	15	59	15	127	15	162	15	126
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	5	71	5	111	10	285	5	191	20	223
Plymouth	25	179	15	29	15	206	40	187	25	271
Poole	5	234	0	0	5	170	x	x	x	x
Somerset	15	67	15	168	20	86	20	190	15	265
South Gloucestershire	0	0	x	x	x	x	10	158	5	137
Swindon	10	113	15	110	15	133	5	110	x	x
Torbay	10	314	5	76	10	148	15	293	10	410
Wiltshire	5	35	10	54	15	72	20	123	10	160

x = Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] England and region totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five. Average time between approval for adoption and placement is shown as mean number of days.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Freeing orders were abolished with effect from 30 December 2005. Placements order were introduced when the Adoption and Children Act 2002 came into force.

[5] In 2009, Cheshire local authority split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Similarly, Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford and Central Bedfordshire.

Source:
SSDA 903

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the average cost is of each completed school building project under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [68497]

(2) what the average cost to the public purse was of building a *(a)* primary school of average size and *(b)* secondary school of average size in the latest period for which figures are available. [68498]

Mr Gibb: The average cost of each completed school building project under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is £18 million. This figure is drawn from data on 227 schools and includes complete new build projects; part new build and part refurbishment projects; and refurbishment only projects.

The average cost of building a new secondary school of average size, procured through BSF is £25 million. This figure is drawn from data on 93 new build schools of average size.

Information is held centrally only in respect of the cost of building secondary schools procured as part of BSF. Cost information for primary and secondary schools procured locally is held by local authorities and cannot be collected and aggregated without disproportionate cost.

Children: Autism

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how he expects schools to monitor the progress of children with autism, including those who do not have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan; [69570]

(2) whether he proposes that all children with autism will be given an action plan, including children without a statement of special educational needs on an education, health and care plan. [69571]

Sarah Teather: Local authority maintained schools in England have a duty and academies an obligation to use their best endeavours to make the special educational provision called for by a child's learning difficulties, including children with autism. The provision and progress of children with statements of special educational needs (SEN) must be reviewed at least annually and the SEN and disability Green Paper proposed that the provision for, and progress of, children with education, health and care plans should be reviewed regularly.

Schools can draw up individual education plans for children with or without statements. The Green Paper said that a revised SEN code of practice would look at new approaches to planning, reviewing and tracking pupils' progress which reduced the bureaucratic burdens on schools associated with individual education plans.

Children's Play: Training

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons the Playwork Induction Standard was replaced by a system of individual qualification for playscheme employees. [68501]

Sarah Teather: The Playwork Induction Standard did not meet the standards demanded by the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, when it came into force in September 2008. The framework sets the minimum requirements for staff-to-child ratios in settings delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage and the qualification levels practitioners must hold.

Civil Disorder

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on children's services in local authorities of the eviction of council tenants involved in the public disorder of August 2011. [70571]

Tim Loughton: Local authorities are best placed to consider how their children's services should respond locally to this and any other impacts following the recent public disorder. In doing so I am sure that they will take into account both their statutory responsibilities and the needs of vulnerable children and young people in the area.

Class Sizes

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average class size for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools was in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside and (iii) England in each year since 2010. [70087]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the table.

State-funded primary and secondary schools:[1,2,3] classes as taught.[4] As at January each year, in England, South Tyneside local authority and Jarrow parliamentary constituency

	Average class size					
	England		South Tyneside local authority		Jarrow parliamentary constituency	
	State-funded primary[1,2]	State-funded secondary[1,3]	State-funded primary[1,2]	State-funded secondary[1,3]	State-funded primary[1,2]	State-funded secondary[1,3]
2010	26.4	20.5	25.4	20.5	25.3	19.2
2011	26.6	20.4	25.3	19.4	24.8	18.3

Notes:

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes primary academies.

[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies (including all-through academies).

[4] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

Source:

School Census.

Classroom Assistants

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of the Agency Workers Regulations on the practice of using unqualified teaching assistants as cover supervisors for absent teachers. [69040]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2011]:* The Agency Worker Regulations do not change the position on the use of cover supervisors. The role of a cover supervisor is to supervise pupils in carrying out a pre-prepared exercise but it does not involve teaching a class. Therefore, those undertaking the role of cover supervisors should continue to be paid as cover supervisors.

The Department has provided guidance on its website to help those in the education sector with the implementation of the Regulations. The guidance is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/traininganddevelopment/a0077106/supply-teachers

Departmental Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many senior civil servants in his Department and its predecessors at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department and its predecessors had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department and its predecessors in each such year. [68964]

Tim Loughton: Information on the former employment of senior civil servants is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the consultancy services provided to the Department in the last four years (shown in financial years) is set out as follows:

Deloitte

Total spend £421,000 (2008-09), £398,000 (2009-10), £294,000 (2010-11) and £172,000 (2011-12 to end July).

Services provided from financial year 2010-11 onwards include: the provision of financial audit services on audit reviews of Nestor Primecare Services income and expenditure accounts for the Childcare Approval Scheme; developing the process for due diligence reports associated with the free schools agenda.

KPMG

Total spend £757,000 (2008-09), £683,000 (2009-10) and £457,000 (2010-11).

Services provided from financial year 2010-11 onwards include: professional services consultancy, providing advisory services supporting the development of Diplomas; information systems and technology strategy development services.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Total spend £2,724,000 (2008-09), £2,536,000 (2009-10), £1,124,000 (2010-11) and £619,000 (2011-12 to end July).

Services provided from financial year 2010-11 onwards include: research and analysis services for: the evaluation of the Commissioning Support Programme and the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in children and young people's services; the evaluation of Building Schools for the Future Programme; evaluation of the making good progress pilots—an investigation of Speech and Language Therapy; services for supporting the Teacher Pension Services tender project; and, the supply of services to deliver the Achievement for All programme.

There was no expenditure with Ernst and Young in those years.

Information on expenditure for the years before 2008-09 are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not hold any information, for all years, on the number of consultants who have provided advice and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many letters his Department received from hon. Members in June 2011. [68759]

Tim Loughton: The total number of letters in the Department for Education from hon. and right hon. Members in June was 1,187.

Procurement

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69277]

Tim Loughton: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), said in response to PQ16752, on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 615-16W, that the Government had announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

> a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;
>
> radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across government; and
>
> the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management;

and that, in result, Departments would no longer be required to report against the previous Government's efficiency target.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010/11.

This impact was assessed using methodologies attached at Annex A. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

These savings are born out in my Department's annual report and accounts 2010-11.

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/d/annual%20report%20and%20accounts%202010%2011.pdf

Note 9 (a), page 83, reports that other administration costs for my Department reduced from £70.713 million in financial year 2009-10 to £65.868 million in financial year 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

Annex A: Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for department ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009/10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other Professional Services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown Commercial	Government have renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing' savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in Memoranda of Understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.

Annex A: Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Contingent Labour	Government have significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009/10.
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010/11 with that for 2009/10.
Centralising Procurement	Government have started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against a 2009/10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.
ICT	We implemented: (a) a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and (b) a review of all on-going ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010/11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.
Major Projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010/11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We have halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million Identity Cards—£50 million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million Whole Farm—£5 million We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects related negotiations.
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry.

Independent Review Panels

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Leeds North East of 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 423-24W, on independent review panels, in respect of each of the reviews commissioned by his Department between May 2010 and March 2011 which appointments *(a)* were made following a light-touch process and *(b)* involved a formal application and selection process; and if he will make a statement. [68189]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* All independent review panel appointments were based on a light-touch process.

Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many regulations his Department has introduced *(a)* in the six months prior to 1 September 2010 and *(b)* in the six months after 1 September 2010 which it has determined do not impose costs on businesses. [65319]

Tim Loughton: In the period between 1 March 2010 and 31 August 2010, the Department for Education made 68 statutory instruments which did not impose any costs upon businesses. In the period between 1 September 2010 and 28 February 2011, the Department made 28 statutory instruments which did not impose any costs upon businesses.

Copies of these statutory instruments can be found at:

www.legislation.gov.uk

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many regulations that impose costs on businesses his Department *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed in the six months prior to 1 September 2010; and what the net effect on the costs on businesses of such introductions and removals was. [65353]

Tim Loughton: In the period between 1 March 2010 and 31 August 2010, the Department for Education introduced two statutory instruments which imposed costs on business. In the case of both of these statutory instruments, impact assessments were carried out which identified the likely costs implications associated with their implementation. These impact assessments can be viewed using the links provided.

The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/pdfs/uksiem_20101997_en.pdf

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/617/pdfs/uksiem_20100617_en.pdf

None of the statutory instruments which were revoked by the Department between 1 March 2010 and 31 August 2010 imposed any costs on business.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many hours were worked per week by each intern employed by his Department under the Cabinet Office Summer Diversity Internship Programme in the last 12 months. [69478]

Tim Loughton: Information for the Department is set out in the following table:

Intern	*Length of placement during period (week(s))*	*Hours worked*
Intern 1	3	108
Intern 2	3	108
Intern 3	3	101
Intern 4	3	108
Intern 5	3	101
Intern 6	1	36
Intern 7	1	36
Intern 8	1	36
Intern 9	2	72
Intern 10	2	72
Intern 11	4	144
Intern 12	2	72
Intern 13	2	72
Intern 14	2	72
Intern 15	2	72
Intern 16	2	72
Intern 17	2	72
Intern 18	1.5	58
Total hours worked	—	1,412

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many (*a*) persons undertaking unpaid work experience, (*b*) unpaid interns and (*c*) other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69519]

Tim Loughton: From 1 July 2011 until the end of August 2011, the Department has had 42 unpaid work experience placements. The Department had no unpaid interns over the same period.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students were in receipt of educational maintenance allowance in each school and college in London in 2010-11. [71246]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Coventry

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in Coventry local authority area were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in academic year 2010-11; and how many young people in that area he expects to participate in the 16-19 bursary scheme in 2011-12. [70368]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 7 September 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ70368.

As at the 31 of July 2011 the number of young people who had received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in Coventry Local Authority area was 4,604.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year. EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments, broken down by local authority, during academic year 2010/11 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Further information on take up for the academic years: 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 can also be found here.

Schools, colleges, Academies and training providers will be able to determine their own criteria for eligibility for discretionary bursaries, and for deciding the level of awards. We therefore do not hold data about the number of young people that are expected to benefit from the bursary scheme in each local authority area. We expect that in many cases providers will want to agree a consistent approach across an area, taking account of the needs and circumstances of young people locally.

The bursary fund allocations that have been made for 2011/12 for schools, colleges and further providers have been published and can be found on the following website:

http://www.ypla.gov.uk/aboutus/ourwork/funding/allocations/

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse has been of each of the free schools established to date. [70430]

Mr Gibb: Current estimates are that the total capital costs for the 24 free schools opening in 2011 will range from £110 million to £130 million. The Department will publish the full financial information for approved free schools once final costs have been agreed.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of applications to establish free schools were from parent groups. [70498]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* There were 323 applications in the first Free School application round, which closed on 11 February 2011, from a diverse range of groups. At the time we did not, however, require proposers to categorise themselves as either teachers, parents or charitable groups.

In the second round of Free School applications, which closed on 15 June 2011, there were 281 applications of which 227 were for mainstream Free Schools. 126 (56%) of these applications came from local groups, where proposers have described themselves as a teacher, parent or community group.

Free Schools: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much of his Department's net expenditure on academies is to be recouped from dedicated schools grant payments to local authorities from September 2011. [68017]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* The amount recouped from local authorities through adjustments to their dedicated schools grant allocation increases throughout the year as more schools become academies.

Details of the first adjustment for 2011-12 financial year can be found at:

> http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/settlement2012pupilpremium/a0070267/dsg-and-pupil-premium-allocations-for-2011-12

(final 2011-12 DSG allocations). At that point, the figure for 2011-12 recoupment, for both school budget share and Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG), was £2.4 billion. Details of the next adjustment in September and subsequent adjustments will be made available at the same web-page.

GCSE

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the trends in academic standards in GCSE examinations. [67948]

Mr Gibb: The independent regulator, Ofqual, is responsible for ensuring that standards are maintained over time. It is currently looking into issues such as grade inflation, level of demand on candidates, marking and international comparisons.

The Government plans to reform the National Curriculum and GCSEs to ensure that all our young people have an education which matches up to the best in the world and allows them progress to further and higher study.

New GCSEs will be developed reflecting the new National Curriculum, focusing on essential knowledge in key subjects, with exams taken at the end of the course to support good teaching and in-depth study.

GCSE: GCE A-level

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's policy is on the timing of release of GCSE and A-level results to local authorities. [70159]

Mr Gibb: Summer GCSE and A-level results are each released to students on a specific date in August. Awarding organisations communicate results in confidence to the relevant schools and colleges the day before.

The Department publishes Statistical First Releases (SFRs) on the overall achievements of young people in GCSE examinations and other accredited qualifications and on the overall achievement of young people in GCE and Applied GCE A-level examinations and other equivalent qualifications at the end of October. These SFRs present national and local authority level results based on provisional data.

School and college level results are then published in mid-January in the Performance Tables, and further SFRs are published based on final data. This follows a process during which schools check and confirm, or ask for amendments to, the data for which they are held to account. The final data also take account of results notified late by awarding organisations, the outcome of appeals etc.

Head Teachers: Pay

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the salaries of head teachers are subject to the public sector pay freeze. [70050]

Mr Gibb: The two-year pay freeze for all head teachers and teachers in maintained schools started on 1 September 2011. The pay freeze relates to inflationary pay increases and will cover the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years.

Staff in academies are not affected by the public sector pay freeze. This is because academies are not bound by the School Teachers'. Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) and are therefore able to set their own pay and conditions of service.

Music: Education

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils took part in peripatetic music lessons in (i) England, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) Dudley Borough in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [69613]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* We are making £82.5 million available for music education in 2011-12 and are determined that this is used to ensure that every child has an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We do not collect data centrally on the numbers of peripatetic music lessons either nationally or in specific areas. However, data supplied voluntarily by local authorities suggest that 831,503 primary school children in England were learning a musical instrument in the 2009/10 academic year and a projected 880,971 were learning a musical instrument in 2010/11.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the allocation of music education funding to local authorities. [70401]

Mr Gibb: The allocation of music education funding to local authorities was discussed in February 2011 with the Department for Communities and Local Government, prior to the announcement of the 2011-12 music education budget.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department has issued to local education authorities on the funding of music education services. [70402]

Mr Gibb: The Federation of Music Services, which is administering the Music Education Grant on behalf of the Department in 2011-12, has issued guidance on the funding of music education services.

The guidance states that this funding should be used to support frontline services for music. In order to receive the funding, local authorities must submit a declaration that the money will be used for music education. In addition local authorities must provide details of their contribution to music education funding and the services that they intend to provide to children in the area, as well as showing how the Music Education Grant will be used to meet the Government's objectives in terms of music education. The guidance also states that the Music Education Grant must not be used for musical provision which replaces activities for which funding is already allocated through other sources (e.g. National Curriculum music provision, for which schools are already funded).

The full set of guidance can be found at:

http://www.thefms.org/the-fms/professional/funding/

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding has been allocated to each local authority for music education in each category of expenditure for 2011-12. [70403]

Mr Gibb: We are making £82.5 million available for music education in 2011-12, of which £77 million is going to local authorities. The Federation of Music Services, the membership organisation for music services, is administering the Music Education Grant on behalf of the Department for 2011-12. Details of allocations of the grant to each local authority can be found on the Federation of Music Services' website at:

http://www.thefms.org/the-fms/professional/funding/

Pupil Exclusions: Children in Care

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of looked after children were *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently excluded in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [68881]

Tim Loughton: Information on the percentage of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months who received a fixed exclusion and the percentage who received a permanent exclusion is available for the years 2007 to 2009 in the Statistical First Release "Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2010" available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml

Figures for 2009/10 are now available and will be included in the 2011 publication in December.

Table 1, showing local authority level figures for the academic years 2006/07 to 2009/10 for children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March based on the individual child level CLA-NPD matched dataset, has been placed in the House Libraries. Information on years prior to 2007 is not available from this data source.

Prior to 2007 information was collected via the OC2 aggregate return. These figures were based on children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September. Information on the percentage of children receiving a fixed exclusion is not available. The figures for the percentage of children receiving a permanent exclusion are not directly comparable to those from the CLA-NPD matched dataset as they have been derived from a different data source and are based on a different cohort of children. Figures for 2005/06 can be found in the SFR "Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2006, England", available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000727/index.shtml

Table 2, showing the percentage of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September who received a permanent exclusion in 2005/06, has been placed in the House Libraries. Where a child was permanently excluded more than once in the previous school year, each occasion has been counted.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of school pupils in Coventry local authority area were in receipt of free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [70367]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in Coventry local authority as at January 2011 is shown in the table.

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools, and pupil referral units:[1, 2, 3, 4] Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals,[5, 6, 7] January 2011, Coventry local authority

		Pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals	
	Number on roll[5,6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5,6]*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]	25,544	6,330	24.8
State-funded secondary schools[1,3]	17,186	3.505	20.4
Special schools[4]	719	303	42.1
Pupil referral units	65	20	30.8

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools, and pupil referral units:[1, 2, 3, 4] Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals,[5, 6, 7] January 2011, Coventry local authority

		Pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals	
	Number on roll[5,6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[5,6]	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
Total	43,514	10,158	23.3

Notes:

1. Includes middle schools as deemed.
2. Includes primary academies.
3. Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.
4. Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
5. Includes pupils who are sole or dual main registrations. Includes boarders. In pupil referral units includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.
6. Pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.
7. Includes maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools, and pupil referral units. Excludes pupils in alternative provision as full and part-time status is not collected.

Source:

School Census.

The latest information, for January 2011, on free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found in the "Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2011" Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Schools: Attendance

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parental requests for authorised absence during term time were *(a)* approved and *(b)* declined in (i) Coventry education authority area, (ii) Bradford education authority area, (iii) Stoke-on-Trent education authority area, (iv) Wolverhampton education authority area and (v) England in each of the last five years. [70366]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not collect data on the number of parental requests for authorised absence during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 state that head teachers may grant leave of absence during term time. The Department looks to schools themselves to consider each request as they can only be judged on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances. We would not want to interfere with that process.

The available absence statistics can be found in the 'Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2009/10' Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000994/index.shtml

The Department collects information on the total number of sessions possible and the number of sessions of absence per term. It is not possible to identify individual episodes of absence.

Schools: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much has been allocated in local authority central spend equivalent grant in each local authority area to date; and how much of that grant has been recouped from the dedicated schools grant to each local authority. [68018]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* Since the beginning of the academy programme, there has been a principle that academies should be funded on the same basis as maintained schools in their local area. In addition to their school budget share, Academies are paid a Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) to cover the costs of those services that were previously provided without charge by the local authority.

Tables have been placed in the House of Libraries which detail the amount of LACSEG paid out in academic years 2005/06 to 2010/11 and the amount of LACSEG recouped from each local authority since the inception of recoupment in 2008 to 31 August 2011.

The two sets of figures are not comparable. Only funding for LACSEG within the Schools Budget is recouped from DSG. The bulk of LACSEG relates to local authorities' non-schools education budget. Up to and including 2010-11 none of this funding was recovered from local authorities. In 2011-12, £148 million was topsliced from the local government settlement. The level of the reduction to local government funding relating to local authority LACSEG in 2011-12 and 2012-13 has recently been subject to a consultation. The Government are considering the responses to that consultation and the outcome will be announced shortly.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's schools budget is planned to be in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [68500]

Tim Loughton: The current schools budget for 2011-12 together with the current allocations as set out in Table 7.2 of "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2011", published by HM Treasury, for the financial years 2012-13 to 2014-15 is set out in the following table.

School budget (dedicated schools grant and funding for academies)

Financial year	*£ million*
2011-12	37,400
2012-13	37,745
2013-14	38,158
2014-15	38,577

In addition schools will also receive the pupil premium that will be worth £625 million in 2011-12 rising to £2.5 billion in 2014-15.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was allocated to each school and college in London in 16 to 19 bursaries for 2011-12. [71248]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the 16-19 Bursary Fund for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that funding for other schools in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets is not affected adversely as a result of the Bethnal Green Technology College becoming an academy. [68708]

Mr Gibb: The principle of academy funding is that Academies receive the same level of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the local authority as a maintained school. They also receive funding to meet the additional responsibilities that are no longer provided for them by the local authority. This means that others schools in the London borough of Tower Hamlets would not be adversely affected if the Bethnal Green technology college converted to academy status.

Solvents: Misuse

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has had recent discussions with the devolved administrations on the funding of statistical information on the prevention of volatile substance abuse. [70462]

Mr Simon Burns: I have been asked to reply.

The Department is reviewing its existing public health information and intelligence functions and considering what data should be collected to inform the work of Public Health England. Decisions on the data requirements for a drugs early warning system, including the collection of Volatile Substance Abuse (VSA) mortality data in the future will need to be based on the outcome of this work. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and the British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association have made representations about the importance of collecting data on VSA.

Spend by the Department on the collection and publication of statistics on VSA is shown in the following table:

	Spend (£)
20011-12	0
2010-11	0
2009-10	49,218
2008-09	49,218
2007-08	49,218

There have been no recent discussions with the devolved Administrations concerning the funding of statistical information on VSA.

Frank, the Government's drug information and advice service, provides young people with knowledge to help prevent drug use. The following table shows Frank campaign funding for the last three years for which figures are available. This excludes spending on the Frank helpline which is funded through a contract for various helplines in which the costs attributable to Frank are not separately identified, but are estimated to be more than £800,000 per annum.

	£ million
2008-09	6.97
2009-10	5.07
2010-11	0.19

Supply Teachers

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that agency worker regulations do not adversely affect the present level of flexibility available to supply teachers and local authority employers. [69045]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2011]:* The Agency Workers Regulations implement the requirements of EU Directive 2008/104/EC. The purpose of the directive is to ensure the protection of temporary agency workers by applying the principles of equal treatment so that after a qualifying period, they enjoy the same terms and conditions as teachers who have been recruited directly by schools and local authorities. The Department's guidance will help teachers, employers and agencies to implement the regulations so that present levels of flexibility are still available for supply teachers and employers.

Teachers: Foreign Nationals

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* science and *(b)* mathematics teachers were non-UK nationals in 2010-11. [70433]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teaching Assistants

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teaching assistants were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 2010. [70088]

Mr Gibb: The following table gives the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in publicly funded schools in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside Local Authority, the North East and England in each year from 1997 to 2010.

Up until January 2010 these figures were collected through the School Census in January of each year. The School Workforce Census was run, in its complete form, for the first time in November 2010 and is the new source for these figures.

Further school workforce statistics are available from the November 2010 School Workforce Statistical First Release which is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Data for November 2011 are scheduled to be published in spring 2012.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in service in publicly funded schools, years: January each year, 1997 to 2010, coverage: Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the North East government office region and England

	Jarrow constituency	South Tyneside local authority	North East government office region	England
From School Census				
January				
1997	90	160	2,870	60,600
1998	90	160	2,990	65,560
1999	100	160	3,150	69,700
2000	100	180	3,450	79,050
2001	140	250	4,280	95,020
2002	200	350	4,010	105,440
2003	150	280	5,070	121,270
2004	230	420	5,660	132,240
2005	240	440	6,470	147,250
2006	260	470	6,980	153,510
2007	260	440	7,490	163,800
2008	280	460	8,100	176,990
2009	290	500	8,520	183,700
2010	280	490	8,870	194,230
From School Workforce Census[1]				
November				
2010	210	370	7,460	213,900

[1] The national figure for November 2010 includes estimates for a small number of schools, including four in South Tyneside local authority, that did not make an approved School Workforce Census return. In addition an estimate was made in the national figure for a proportion of returns that did not include the FTE number of hours worked by teaching assistants that would otherwise be excluded. These estimates are not available at the constituency, local authority and regional level and have not been included.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census (January 1997 to January 2010) and School Workforce Census (November 2010)

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent progress his Department has made on a national action plan to address the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2008 Concluding Observations on the UK's compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; [69319]

(2) what assessment he has made of the UK's progress in realising the General Measures of Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; [69320]

(3) whether he plans to bring forward proposals to incorporate into domestic legislation the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; [69321]

(4) whether he has considered bringing forward legislation for England similar to the Welsh Assembly's Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011; [69322]

(5) what assessment he has made of the UK's compliance with Article 4 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child with regard to protecting children's rights to the maximum extent of available resources; [69323]

(6) what assessment he has made of the feasibility of identifying the proportion of public spending allocated *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly to children in line with recommendation by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; [69324]

(7) what assessment he has made of the level of knowledge of the principles and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child among *(a)* children, *(b)* parents, *(c)* childcare professionals and *(d)* education professionals; and whether he has made an assessment of the Government's compliance with the UK's commitments under Article 42 of the Convention; [69327]

(8) whether he has assessed the need for compulsory education on the principles and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as part of the National Curriculum; [69328]

(9) whether he has assessed the need for compulsory education on the principles and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as part of *(a)* initial training and *(b)* continuous professional development for foundation years and education professionals. [69329]

Tim Loughton: This Government are committed to implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). On 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 5-7WS, the Minister of State, Department for Education, the hon. Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather), gave a commitment to Parliament that:

> "the Government would give due consideration to the UNCRC articles when making new policy and legislation"

and that:

> "in doing so, we would always consider the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendations but recognise that, like other state signatories, the UK Government and the UN committee may at times disagree on what compliance with certain articles entails".

This year marks the half-way point between the UN Committee's Concluding Observations from 2008 and our next reporting due in 2014. The UK Children's Commissioners are due to publish an independent report later this year which will provide an assessment of the UK's progress. The Government will want to consider their conclusions and plan next steps in light of that report.

Each of the UK jurisdictions is approaching implementation of the UNCRC in a way which reflects its own local circumstances and priorities. In England, the detailed review of the Children's Commissioner's remit and functions marked significant progress. By accepting the review recommendations, the Government have signalled that they intend to strengthen the role of the Children's Commissioner to promote the rights of children and young people in England.

There are no plans to incorporate UNCRC into domestic legislation. In general the UK Government does not incorporate treaties and international conventions directly into UK law. There is no requirement in the UNCRC that it be incorporated into a single piece of legislation. Our approach to deliver the UNCRC outcomes is through a mixture of legislative and policy initiatives. The analysis published by Government in March 2010, in response to the report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights of 20 November 2009 demonstrated how existing legislation underpins implementation of the UNCRC in England.

The Welsh Assembly Government have taken the step of introducing a duty on its Ministers to have due regard to the UNCRC. I will be taking a very close interest in how this develops. However, the UK Government's priority is to raise awareness of the UNCRC and introduce practical measures to promote and protect children's rights.

It is not possible to provide accurate information on the proportion of the public spending allocated either directly or indirectly to children. This is due to a number of factors, including the devolved nature of decision-making on spending priorities and differing ways in which budgets are allocated. However, the Department for Education's planned expenditure on children and schools is £56.1 billion in 2011-12 compared to expenditure of £45.9 billion in 2006-07.

No assessment has been made of the level of knowledge of UNCRC among children, parents, child care and education professionals. The Department's website publishes information about UNCRC principles and provisions. To support awareness-raising among children, the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award is a way in which schools can demonstrate, through self evaluation and external assessment, that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is embedded in their ethos and curriculum. £500,000 was provided by Government over three years to March 2010 to UNICEF to support the rollout of the Award.

Learning about rights and responsibilities currently features within the National Curriculum as part of the Programme of Study for citizenship. The Department for Education is undertaking a review of the National Curriculum in England. The purpose of this review is to reform the National Curriculum and restore its original purpose so that it sets out only the essential knowledge, concepts and processes that children should be expected to acquire in key subjects during the course of their school career. This reduction in prescription will free up teachers to use their professionalism to design and plan lessons that inspire their pupils, and also give schools much greater scope to innovate in how they teach about important topics such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It is not anticipated that compulsory education on the principles and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child will form part of either the initial training or continuous professional development for early education and child care professionals. However, candidates undertaking training and assessment in order to attain Early Years Professional Status are required to demonstrate that they have a sound working knowledge and understanding of current legal requirements, national policies and guidance on health and safety, safeguarding and promoting the well being of children.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employers' Liability

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department has allocated for the Employers Liability Insurance Bureau in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [70248]

Chris Grayling: The issues raised by an Employers Liability Insurance Bureau are complex and to ensure we get this right we have been in active discussions with all stakeholders since the public consultation closed in May 2010. We are still carefully considering how to progress the matter to achieve an appropriate outcome and we will bring forward our proposals, which will include financial allocations, in due course.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in receipt of employment and support allowance or its predecessor benefits who have been passed to Working Links in each quarter of *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [70426]

Chris Grayling: During 2009-10 and 2010-11, claimants of employment and support allowance and its predecessor benefits, who lived in the Jobcentre Plus districts of:

Coventry and Warwickshire
Gloucester, Wiltshire and Swindon
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire
West of England
North East Yorkshire and the Humber

could be referred from Jobcentre Plus to Working Links via the Provider-Led Pathways to Work programme, once they had undertaken an initial work-focused interview with Jobcentre Plus.

The following table shows the number of mandatory and voluntary starts to Provider-Led Pathways to Work in each quarter of 2009-10 and 2010-11, for customers who go on to start with a provider after being referred by Jobcentre Plus following their initial work-focused interview[1]:

Quarter of starting PL Pathways with Jobcentre Plus	*Starts for all providers in GB*	*Working Links*
2009		
1 April to 30 June	52,140	6,570
1 July to 30 September	48,040	7,100
1 October to 31 December	47,100	6,600
2010		
1 January to 31 March	23,810	3,700
1 April to 30 June	23,520	3,320
1 July to 30 September	19,770	3,760
1 October to 31 December	14,820	2,850
2011		
1 January to 31 January	520	20
Total	229,720	33,930

Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Pathways to Work. Official statistics on Pathways to Work starts and job entries are currently available up to January 2011, and are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=ib_ref_p2w

[1] Source: DWP Provider-Led Pathways database. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.

Housing Benefit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has considered enabling self-contained studios and bedsits to qualify for the local housing allowance shared accommodation rate. [70144]

Steve Webb: The shared accommodation rate limits the level of financial help available from housing benefit rather than deciding what type of property a person can live in.

The one bedroom shared accommodation rate is based on the rents of one bedroom properties, excluding anything self contained but including all other one room lettings. While the level at which it is set will be influenced by the rents of bedsits, the rents of studio flats would have no influence as they are self-contained.

However, this does not mean that all self-contained accommodation will be unaffordable. Some cheaper self-contained studios or bedsits may have rents that are at or below the shared accommodation rate, and others may be affordable if the claimant is able to make up any shortfall from other sources of income.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of single people aged 25 to 34 who are not in receipt of housing benefit to live in shared accommodation. [70446]

Steve Webb: It is estimated that 41% of non-student, single people, aged 25 to 34, who are renting in the private sector, have no children and have not declared housing benefit receipt are living in shared accommodation.

Notes:

1. Shared accommodation refers to households where there is no clear head, for example unrelated adults sharing a house or flat on an equal basis. This analysis therefore excludes other forms of sharing, for example lodging in an owner-occupied house, or adult children living with their parents.
2. Housing benefit receipt has been analysed at household level, so some individuals not claiming housing benefit, but sharing accommodation with benefit claimants, have been treated as if they are in receipt. Only a small proportion of non-recipients share accommodation with claimants, so this does not have a significant impact on the estimate.
3. "Private renting" includes both furnished and unfurnished tenancies, but excludes rent free cases.
4. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 23,000 households in Great Britain. Data for 2008-09 were collected between April 2008 and March 2009.
5. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.
6. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government Office Region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
7. Figures have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Source:

DWP analysis of 2008/09 Family Resources Survey

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working households were claiming housing benefit in each local authority area in Great Britain in *(a)* June 2010 and *(b)* May 2011. [71245]

Steve Webb: The requested information can only be provided for non-passported housing benefit recipients. While there may be small numbers of households in receipt of a passported benefit who are also in employment this information is not regularly recorded.

A copy of the available information has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether his Department publishes information on the number of people placed into a job by each Jobcentre Plus office which they hold for more than *(a)* six months and *(b)* one year; [70261]

(2) whether his Department publishes information on the number of people placed into employment by each Jobcentre Plus office; [70262]

(3) what methodology his Department uses to determine the efficacy of each Jobcentre Plus office; [70263]

(4) what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of placing someone in a job through Jobcentre Plus in the last year for which figures are available. [70264]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus does not publish information on the number of people placed into employment by each Jobcentre Plus office, nor does it publish information on the number of people placed into a job by each Jobcentre Plus office which they hold for more than *(a)* six months and *(b)* one year.

The main measure of labour market performance is the rate at which people leave jobseeker's allowance, income support and employment and support allowance and move into employment. The measure supports the

Department for Work and Pensions 2011-15 Business Plan and the coalition Government's structural reform priorities. Jobcentre Plus reports on monthly progress against this measure across all levels of the business. The data will be published at both a national and Jobcentre Plus district level early next year.

The measure of people moving into work is assessed using employment data from HMRC. This provides useful trend information but is not a complete picture of all employments, and is not robust at a local level. For the very large numbers of Jobcentre Plus claimants, it is not cost-effective to measure the number of people each Jobcentre places into employment, nor what happens to them after they have been successful in finding work. Jobcentre managers therefore focus on maximising off-flow rates from benefit, and also receive supporting information about potential destinations from benefit.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not have information showing the average cost of placing a claimant in a job through Jobcentre Plus. As part of the DWP business plan, the unit cost of Jobcentre Plus labour market support per customer has been published. We are currently exploring ways to develop and present cost per outcome measures.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department measures the success of individual Jobcentre Plus offices in finding sustainable employment for jobseekers. [70394]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not measure the success of individual Jobcentre Plus offices in finding sustainable employment for jobseekers.

The main measure of Jobcentre Plus labour market performance is the rate at which people leave jobseeker's allowance, income support and employment and support allowance and move into employment. The measure supports the Department for Work and Pensions 2011-15 Business Plan and the coalition Government's structural reform priorities.

Jobcentre Plus reports on monthly progress against this measure across all levels of the business.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions applied to claimants of jobseeker's allowance have been challenged by the claimant since 1997; what proportion of challenges were upheld in favour of the claimant; and if he will make a statement. [68123]

Chris Grayling: Data on the volumes of referrals made to Jobcentre Plus Decision Makers for consideration of sanctions are only available from April 2000. Information in the following table shows the proportion of decisions determined in favour of the claimant both before challenge and after challenge.

The source of the information is DWP Information Directorate: Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database. Figures are published at:

http://83.244.183.180/sanction/sanction/LIVE/tabtool.html

The Tabulation Tool and instructions on how to use it can be found on the departmental website here:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Referrals made for fixed, varied and entitlement decisions (thousands) by reason for referral

	All decisions		*Non-adverse*		*Proportion of decisions in favour of the claimant*	
	Appeals	*Reconsiderations*	*Appeals*	*Reconsiderations*	*Appeals (%)*	*Reconsiderations (%)*
Fixed length						
Total	12.18	124.39	1.60	66.07	13	53
2000-01	0.45	4.42	0.05	2.05	11	46
2001-02	0.40	4.40	0.01	1.92	3	44
2002-03	0.45	5.18	0.07	2.20	16	42
2003-04	0.49	5.50	0.14	2.30	29	42
2004-05	0.43	5.15	0.05	2.17	12	42
2005-06	0.51	5.49	0.08	2.27	16	41
2006-07	0.58	6.27	0.08	2.75	14	44
2007-08	0.77	7.58	0.13	3.40	17	45
2008-09	0.85	7.35	0.15	3.16	18	43
2009-10	1.67	15.45	0.21	8.49	13	55
2010-11[1]	5.56	57.55	0.56	35.34	10	61
Varied length						
Total	29.55	447.48	4.67	239.69	16	54
2000-01	3.34	40.83	0.49	20.90	15	51
2001-02	3.38	44.21	0.55	22.44	16	51
2002-03	3.38	53.59	0.58	27.22	17	51
2003-04	2.74	48.40	0.49	25.29	18	52
2004-05	2.40	45.37	0.42	24.60	17	54
2005-06	2.62	39.32	0.42	21.40	16	54
2006-07	2.29	31.31	0.33	17.83	14	57
2007-08	2.34	33.45	0.40	18.61	17	56
2008-09	2.51	36.03	0.40	20.11	16	56

Referrals made for fixed, varied and entitlement decisions (thousands) by reason for referral

	All decisions		*Non-adverse*		*Proportion of decisions in favour of the claimant*	
	Appeals	*Reconsiderations*	*Appeals*	*Reconsiderations*	*Appeals (%)*	*Reconsiderations (%)*
2009-10	2.33	32.08	0.30	17.92	13	56
2010-11[1]	2.29	42.96	0.31	23.33	14	54
Entitlement decisions						
Total	17.14	79.68	3.23	38.62	19	48
2000-01	0.93	4.87	0.14	2.30	15	47
2001-02	0.69	4.33	0.11	2.17	16	50
2002-03	0.72	4.64	0.14	2.44	19	53
2003-04	0.72	4.13	0.11	2.01	15	49
2004-05	0.64	4.08	0.09	1.98	14	49
2005-06	1.01	4.55	0.14	2.18	14	48
2006-07	1.65	5.93	0.30	2.78	18	47
2007-08	2.46	8.46	0.56	3.75	23	44
2008-09	2.65	9.05	0.58	4.27	22	47
2009-10	3.02	13.80	0.57	7.37	19	53
2010-11[1]	2.70	15.82	0.50	7.32	19	46

[1] To January.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.
2. Percentages are to the nearest unit.
3. Varied length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for anything up to 26 weeks.
4. Fixed length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for either 2, 4 or 26 weeks.
5. Entitlement decisions are where the JSA claimant has their entitlement to JSA ended.
6. This information is published at the DWP website: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
7. Data are shown in financial years with 2010-11 containing data up to January 2011.
8. Reason for referral Sanctions for Failure to Attend Back to Work Sessions have been applied since April 2009. Flexible New Deal scheme sanctions have been applied in some parts of Great Britain since October 2009. Prior to April 2010, a Failure to Attend Advisory Interview attracted an entitlement decision. Since then, it has attracted a fixed length sanction of between one and two weeks.
9. JSA Sanction Data are available from April 2000.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions have been applied to jobseeker's allowance claimants since 1997; what the type of sanction was; what financial penalties were imposed; and if he will make a statement. [68125]

Chris Grayling: Data relating to both the number and the type of sanctions applied to jobseeker's allowance are only available from April 2000. The available information is in the tables.

All adverse decisions lead to cessation of or reduction in the payment of jobseeker's allowance to the claimants concerned. The amount of penalty in each case depends on the circumstances of that claimant. Data are not kept relating to the amount of financial penalties incurred by these claimants.

The source of the information is DWP Information Directorate: Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database. Figures are published at:

http://83.244.183.180/sanction/sanction/LIVE/tabtool.html

The Tabulation Tool and instructions on how to use it can be found on the departmental website here:

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Referrals made for fixed, varied and entitlement decisions by reason for referral—all decisions

Fixed Decisions

Thousand

		Reason for referral			
	Total	*Giving up place on training scheme/employment programme*	*Losing place on training scheme/employment programme due to misconduct*	*Refusal of place on training scheme/ employment programme*	*Neglect to avail of place on training scheme/ employment programme*
Total	1,655.52	74.74	171.79	8.97	8.60
2000-01	69.68	8.96	13.11	1.59	2.07
2001-02	67.33	6.73	12.12	0.76	0.65
2002-03	69.81	7.41	13.48	0.64	0.45
2003-04	63.98	6.36	12.66	0.68	0.35
2004-05	58.47	5.46	11.57	0.72	0.30
2005-06	57.01	4.96	10.92	0.52	0.31

Referrals made for fixed, varied and entitlement decisions by reason for referral—all decisions

Fixed Decisions

Thousand

		Reason for referral			
	Total	*Giving up place on training schemelemployment programme*	*Losing place on training schemelemployment programme due to misconduct*	*Refusal of place on training schemel employment programme*	*Neglect to avail of place on training schemel employment programme*
2006-07	79.78	6.97	15.69	0.62	0.75
2007-08	100.60	8.82	21.08	0.81	0.99
2008-09	104.32	8.33	27.27	0.80	0.87
2009-10	213.46	5.72	20.66	0.61	0.51
2010-11 (to January)	771.04	4.98	13.18	1.24	1.39

Fixed Decisions

Thousand

	Reason for referral				
	Failure to attend place on training schemelemployment programme	*Failure to attend advisory interview (post April 2010)*	*Refusal to carry out a JS direction*	*Failure to attend Back to Work Session*	*Missing*
Total	584.72	388.01	87.28	331.40	•
2000-01	34.40	•	9.59	•	•
2001-02	39.66	•	7.44	•	•
2002-03	40.49	•	7.29	•	•
2003-04	37.09	•	6.80	•	•
2004-05	33.04	•	7.40	•	•
2005-06	32.97	•	7.31	•	•
2006-07	47.63	•	8.11	•	•
2007-08	60.69	•	8.21	•	•
2008-09	59.58	•	7.45	•	•
2009-10	55.75	•	7.76	122.43	•
2010-11 (to January)	143.39	387.99	9.93	208.98	•

Varied Decisions

Thousand

		Reason for referral					
	Total	*Reason for Discharge from HM forces*	*Leaving employment voluntarily*	*Lost employment through misconduct*	*Neglect to avail of an opportunity of employment*	*Refusal of employment*	*Missing*
Total	3,783.21	0.42	2,355.71	692.63	1.80	732.65	•
2000-01	489.68	0.01	336.36	80.51	0.41	72.38	•
2001-02	449.44	0.03	268.49	71.21	0.21	109.46	•
2002-03	455.75	0.01	270.99	71.22	0.20	113.24	•
2003-04	359.40	0.02	228.44	59.27	0.13	71.49	•
2004-05	316.27	0.02	204.74	54.28	0.13	57.10	•
2005-06	277.17	0.02	186.90	53.18	0.09	36.95	•
2006-07	254.99	0.04	184.98	54.95	0.06	14.94	•
2007-08	276.35	•	189.06	58.77	0.07	28.40	•
2008-09	308.61	•	204.05	71.44	0.07	33.01	•
2009-10	276.08	0.01	152.77	66.42	0.10	56.75	•
2010-11 (to January)	319.52	0.03	128.93	51.35	0.31	138.88	•

Entitlement Decisions

Thousand

		Reason for referral						
	Total	*Actively seeking employment*	*Availability questions*	*Failure to attend advisory interview (pre April 2010)l Failure to produce signed declaration*	*JSAg questions*	*Trade disputes*	*Joint claim exemption*	*Missing*
Total	2.845.13	432.50	186.61	2,202.67	13.01	0.60	9.73	•
2000-01	248.76	16.51	21.03	209.36	1.80	0.02	0.06	•
2001-02	209.93	11.15	15.23	180.88	1.26	0.12	1.27	•

Entitlement Decisions

Thousand

				Reason for referral				
	Total	*Actively seeking employment*	*Availability questions*	*Failure to attend advisory interview (pre April 2010)/ Failure to produce signed declaration*	*JSAg questions*	*Trade disputes*	*Joint claim exemption*	*Missing*
2002-03	213.89	9.46	14.65	187.34	1.13	0.01	1.26	*
2003-04	187.89	7.94	12.82	165.27	0.66	*	1.03	*
2004-05	184.06	7.98	12.42	161.94	0.91	*	0.79	*
2005-06	212.81	9.43	14.11	187.22	0.98	0.36	0.71	*
2006-07	260.76	30.96	15.11	212.81	1.13	0.04	0.67	*
2007-08	310.78	57.91	15.87	234.99	1.31	0.01	0.67	*
2008-09	354.39	57.93	16.32	277.91	1.24	*	0.96	*
2009-10	482.57	79.90	23.58	376.68	1.09	*	1.28	*
2010-11 (to January)	179.28	143.35	25.42	8.26	1.24	*	0.99	*

"*" denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and displayed in thousands. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.

2. Varied length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for anything up to 26 weeks

3. Fixed length sanctions are where the JSA claimant has their payment temporarily suspended for either two, four or 26 weeks.

4. Entitlement Decisions are where the JSA claimant has their entitlement lo JSA ended.

5 This information is published at the DWP website:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

6. Data are shown in financial years with 2010-11 containing data up to January 2011.

7. Reason for referral Sanctions for Failure to Attend Back to Work Sessions have been applied since April 2009. Flexible New Deal scheme sanctions have been applied in some parts of Great Britain since October 2009. Prior to April 2010. a Failure to Attend Advisory Interview attracted an entitlement decision. Since then, it has attracted a Fixed length sanction of between one and two weeks.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database

Pensions: Inflation

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has estimated the average rate of inflation experienced by pensioner households. [71212]

Steve Webb: There is no official estimate of the average rate of inflation experienced by all pensioner households.

The pensioner prices indices produced by the office for National Statistics are based solely on households who receive 75% or more of their income from the state, equating to around 20% of retired pensioner households according to ONS. Therefore those indices do not reflect the entire pensioner population.

As variants of the RPI measure of inflation, the pensioner indices also employ the same methodology, which does not allow for a substitution effect and which arguably overstates inflation as a result.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effect of inflation on pensioner poverty. [71214]

Steve Webb: The most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty relates to those with incomes below 60% of contemporary median income, after housing costs.

An alternative measure of poverty uses the 1998-99 median income held constant in real terms, after housing costs. This is often referred to as absolute poverty. The absolute measure gives an indication of how many pensioners are in poverty compared to 1998-99, after taking account of the effects of price inflation.

Estimates of both measures are published in the Households Below Average Income series. The following table shows the number and percentage of pensioners in the UK in relative and absolute low income, after housing costs for the 'anchor' year of 1998-99 and the three most recent years for which figures are available.

The table shows that since 1998-99 the level of absolute poverty has fallen by 21 percentage points (2.1 million pensioners) to a historic low of 8%.

Table: Number and proportion of pensioners in the United Kingdom in low income according to relative and absolute measures, after housing costs

	Relative low income		*Absolute low income*	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
1998-99	2.9	29	2.9	29
2007-08	2.0	18	1.0	9
2008-09	1.8	16	1.0	9
2009-10	1.8	16	0.9	8
Change 1998-99 to 2009-10	-1.1	-13	-2.1	-21
Change 2008-09 to 2009-10	0.0	0	-0.1	-1

The Government recognise the pressures that those on fixed incomes such as pensioners face when prices increase.

We have restored the earnings link for the basic state pension and given a "triple guarantee" so that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, price increases (as measured by the consumer prices index) or 2.5%. The restoration of the earnings link and the triple guarantee will benefit both existing and future pensioners by providing a more generous state pension, giving a solid financial foundation from the state, which is essential as part of the pensions system. We also have a long-term commitment to uprating the standard minimum guarantee aspect of pension credit at least in line with earnings.

We are protecting key support for older people: free eye tests; free NHS prescription charges; free bus passes; free television licences for those aged 75 and over and winter fuel payments will remain exactly as budgeted for by the previous Government. We have permanently increased the cold weather payment from £8.50 to £25.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. In the absolute measure of poverty the low income threshold is uprated by the retail prices index excluding housing costs (ONS series CHAZ) from the 1998-99 'anchor' year.

3. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.

4. Figures have been presented on an after housing cost basis. For after housing costs, housing costs are deducted from income.

5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

6. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.

7. Numbers of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners.

8. Proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

9. Changes between periods are calculated based on unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest 100,000. Therefore they may differ from the difference between the rounded figures.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of people who will opt out of automatic enrolment in each year from 2012 to 2017; and what effect opting out will have on the cost to the public purse of automatic enrolment. [71215]

Steve Webb: In 2009, the Department commissioned a nationally representative survey of individuals eligible for automatic-enrolment to measure their intended response. The results from the survey on expected opt-out are presented in the following table:

Participation	*Proportion (%)*
Definitely stay in	31
Probably stay in	34
Probably choose to opt out	12
Definitely choose to opt out	9
It depends	15

If opt-out were 0%, this would increase tax-relief resulting from additional pension saving by an estimated £650 million between 2012-13 and 2016-17 (at 2011-12 earnings levels). There would also be a relatively marginal increase in the administrative costs associated with operating NEST (the National Employment Savings Trust).

Social Security Benefits: Musculoskeletal Disorders

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with musculoskeletal conditions living in each *(a)* region of England and *(b)* country in Great Britain were in receipt of (i) employment and support allowance and (ii) disability living allowance in (A) 2008, (B) 2009 and (C) 2010. [70534]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

The number of employment and support allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefit (IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA) recipients with diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue as main disabling condition by country in Great Britain and region in England—November 2008 to November 2010

	November 2008		*November 2009*		*November 2010*	
	IB/SDA	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
Region						
North East	31,200	n/a	26,580	n/a	23,480	4,970
North West	67,160	n/a	57,810	n/a	51,670	12,34
Yorkshire and the Humber	41,240	n/a	35,450	n/a	32,130	7,850
East Midlands	33,790	n/a	29,170	n/a	26,450	5,980
West Midlands	44,600	n/a	38,390	n/a	34,650	8,620
East of England	30,470	n/a	26,140	n/a	23,700	6,760
London	44,820	n/a	38,800	n/a	34,950	11,450
South East	36,060	n/a	30,780	n/a	28,100	8,960
South West	30,690	n/a	26,610	n/a	24,210	5,950
Country						
England	360,040	n/a	309,720	n/a	279,340	72,880
Wales	37,010	n/a	31,890	n/a	28,660	5,870
Scotland	42,600	n/a	36,230	n/a	32,200	7,480
Unknown/ Abroad	2,800	n/a	2,530	n/a	2,230	60

n/a = not applicable

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. To qualify for incapacity benefit, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment. Under the employment support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to IB or ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB or ESA on the basis of mental and behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the personal/work capability assessment.

3. incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008.

4. Figures by medical condition are not available for employment support allowance prior to 2010.

5. Data include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

The number of disability living allowance (DLA) recipients with musculoskeletal conditions as main disabling condition by country in Great Britain and region in England—November 2008 to November 2010

	November 2008	November 2009	November 2010
Region			
North East	71,000	70,800	70,300
North West	180,900	182,300	181,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	111,800	111,700	110,300
East Midlands	86,000	86,000	85,600
West Midlands	113,800	113,600	113,400
East of England	68,800	68,800	69,200
London	87,900	90,500	91,100
South East	85,700	88,100	89,900
South West	73,000	74,200	74,800
Country			
England	878,700	886,000	885,600
Wales	105,000	104,600	104,400
Scotland	106,700	107,900	108,500
Unknown/ Abroad	[1]100	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Figures 500 and under. These figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

[2] Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5% sample

Telephones

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much revenue was obtained by his Department from telephone calls from members of the public to his Department's 0800, 0845 and 0870 telephone numbers in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [70044]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not receive any revenue through the use of 0800, 0845 and 0870 telephone numbers.

Working Tax Credit: Parents

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to inform couples who claim working tax credit on the basis of between 16 and 24 hours work a week that their entitlement to working tax credit will be ended on 5 April 2012 unless their hours of work are over 24 a week. [70471]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs plans to write to couples with children, currently claiming working tax credit, who are most likely to be affected by the changes announced in the comprehensive spending review. The letter will explain the changes to the working hours conditions and advise them what steps they can take to ensure they continue to be entitled. Letters will be sent later this year.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust in the west midlands and Warwickshire as a result of an assault with a sharp or blunt object; [70357]

(2) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust in the west midlands and Warwickshire as a result of intentional self-harming or self-poisoning in each of the last five years; [70358]

(3) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust in the west midlands and Warwickshire as a result of firework-related injury in each of the last five years. [70360]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department. The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care provides Accident and Emergency Hospital Episode Statistics data for the years 2007-08 to 2009-10. This document has been placed in the Library.

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust in the West Midlands and Warwickshire as a result of drowning and submersion whilst in a swimming pool or natural water in each of the last five years; [70359]

(2) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust in the West Midlands and Warwickshire as a result of evidence of alcohol involvement determined by (i) level of intoxication and (ii) blood alcohol level in each of the last five years; [70361]

(3) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust in the West Midlands and Warwickshire as a result of attacks by dogs in each of the last five years; [70362]

(4) what estimate he has made for the redundancy costs of staff of Coventry Primary Care Trust who will be eligible for employment by GP commissioning consortia. [70388]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Asthma: Ipswich

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients with asthma have been seen by a consultant at Ipswich Hospital in each year since 2000; and how many such patients were under the age of 16 years. [70221]

Paul Burstow: A count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was asthma for all patients, aged 15 and under, and 16 and over, at Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust is shown in the following table. This does not include patients treated in an out-patient setting for asthma, nor does it include in-patients where asthma was recorded as a secondary diagnosis.

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

			Finished consultant episodes
	All Ages	*15 and under*	*16+*
2000-01	469	169	300
2001-02	482	198	284
2002-03	545	190	355
2003-04	546	169	377
2004-05	510	190	320
2005-06	418	167	251
2006-07	410	157	253
2007-08	337	107	230
2008-09	418	151	267
2009-10	437	106	331

Notes:

1. Finished consultant episode (FCE): FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. ICD-10 codes for asthma are as follows:

J45.0 Predominantly allergic asthma
J45.1 Nonallergic asthma
J45.8 Mixed asthma
J45.9 Asthma, unspecified
J46.X Status asthmaticus

3. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS.

4. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

5. In-patients: In-patients are patients who are admitted to hospital and occupy a bed, including both admissions where an overnight stay is planned and day cases.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics. The Information Centre for health and social care

Asthma: Suffolk

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each district in Suffolk have been diagnosed with asthma since 2000. [70030]

Paul Burstow: Information is not available in the format requested.

The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people on general practice registers with asthma. Patients may have been diagnosed at any time. These register counts are available for the last six financial years, beginning in 2004-05, by the primary care trusts (PCTs) covering the county of Suffolk. The information is shown in the following table.

Number of patients on the asthma registers of practices within PCTs in Suffolk

	Primary care trust					
Financial year	*Central Suffolk*	*Ipswich*	*Suffolk Coastal*	*Suffolk West*	*Suffolk*[1]	*Total*
2004-05	6,732	10,617	6,013	15,271	n/a	38,633
2005-06	6,680	10,352	6,253	15,281	n/a	38,566
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38,676	38,676
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38,561	38,561
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39,950	39,950
2009-10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40,004	40,004

[1] From 2006-07.

Notes:

1. In October 2006 there was a re-organisation of PCTs and the existing PCTs in Suffolk were amalgamated into one, Suffolk PCT.

2. The asthma register covers patients with asthma excluding patients with asthma who have been prescribed no asthma-related drugs in the previous 12 months.

3. QOF was introduced as part of the new general medical services (GMS) contract on 1 April 2004. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most personal medical services (PMS) practices also taking part.

4. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national information technology system developed by NHS Connecting for Health. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement.

5. QMAS captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.

6. Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF. Not all practices participate in QOF and some participate in only some parts (especially PMS practices, which are paid under different arrangements for providing services which are part of QOF for GMS practices). Most indicators in QOF have rules that allow for patients to be excluded (e.g. patient refuses treatment) and so the denominator for a given indicator may be less than the number of patients on the register for that disease. It should be noted that some indicators have age limits and so exclude some patients on the register.

Source:

QOF, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Bladder Cancer

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to raise awareness of the symptoms of bladder cancer. [70162]

Mr Simon Burns: Improving public awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and encouraging people to visit their general practitioner when they have symptoms is a key ambition of 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January 2011.

On 28 June 2011, we wrote to all primary care trusts to invite bids for funding to run local awareness campaigns on three issues, which included the symptom of blood in the urine. This symptom is common to a number of cancers, including bladder cancer.

We expect the projects to run from early 2012 and are in the process of finalising decisions on all trust bids.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* mobile and *(b)* fixed breast screening units there are in the (i) NHS and (ii) private healthcare sector. [70141]

Mr Simon Burns: Each of the 81 local breast screening programmes has at least one static unit but some centres have more than one location; each with an x-ray set. According to data supplied by NHS Cancer Screening Programmes there are 312 x-ray sets in static locations and 152 sets in 151 mobile units.

The Department does not hold data on the number of x-ray sets maintained for symptomatic services and it does not collect information regarding the number of sets within the private sector.

Diseases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will represent the Government at the UN high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases in September 2011. [70049]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley) will represent the Government at the United Nations high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases in September 2011. He will be supported by officials from the Department of Health and the Department for International Development. The decision on the composition of this small team has taken into account how best to represent the United Kingdom's interests, given the domestic and global priority attached to tackling non-communicable diseases, as well as the need for the efficient use of taxpayers' money in funding overseas trips.

Health and Social Care Bill

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward amendments to the *(a)* Designated Services and *(b)* Insolvency and Health Special Administration chapter of the Health and Social Care Bill. [69209]

Mr Simon Burns: Amendments to the designation and insolvency elements of the Bill were brought forward at Commons Report stage where Parliament had the opportunity to debate them and put them into the Bill.

Health Research Authority

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* duties, *(b)* budget and *(c)* key personnel are of the Health Research Authority. [71111]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health Research Authority will be established this year as a Special Health Authority with the National Research Ethics Service as its core. It will be responsible for appointing, supporting and managing research ethics committees. It will also work closely with other bodies, such as the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, to create a unified approval process and promote proportionate standards for compliance and inspection within a consistent national system of research governance. The planned budget for the Health Research Authority is £10.1 million. It will have 25 head office posts and approximately 100 further staff in National Research Ethics Service regional centres.

HIV Infection

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements there are for *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* nurses and *(d)* social care workers to receive training on HIV; and what (i) undergraduate and (ii) postgraduate courses provide HIV-specific training for healthcare professionals in each such category. [71025]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of healthcare training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies for the healthcare professions.

Through their role as the custodians of quality standards in education and practice, the profession regulators are committed to ensuring high quality patient care delivered by high quality health professionals and that healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice, including HIV and AIDS.

The House of Lords ad hoc Select Committee on HIV and AIDS issued a report on the 1 September 2011. The report includes 60 recommendations some of which include a review of certain aspects of training and education of healthcare professionals. The Department will respond to the recommendations raised in the report later this year.

IVF

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cycles of IVF each primary care trust offers to eligible couples under the age of 40 years. [71205]

Anne Milton: This information is no longer collected centrally.

The Department has previously published this information in their report "Primary Care Trust survey—provision of IVF in England 2008", which has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_101074.pdf

Primary care trusts are well aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers, having regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

KPMG

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts KPMG currently holds with his Department. [70086]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department holds the following information on its central systems about current contracts with KPMG LLP.

Contract description	*Approval/ start date*	*Maximum contract value (£)*
Services concerning accounting and audit at the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	23 March 2011	105,000
Accountancy services concerning transition due diligence at the Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust	1 July 2011	105,000
Accountancy services concerning transition due diligence at the Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	17 August 2011	102,129

Learning Disability

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that *(a)* Health and Wellbeing Boards and *(b)* GP consortia identify the (i) needs and (ii) number of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities in their locality; and if he will make a statement. [70038]

Paul Burstow: Local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and local communities, through the health and wellbeing board, will have a duty to involve users and the public when developing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA should include a comprehensive analysis of health and social care needs in their local area including those of vulnerable groups such as people with multiple learning difficulties.

Clinical commissioning groups and local authorities will, subject to the passage of the Bill, also be under a duty to agree a joint health and wellbeing strategy which will inform their commissioning plans.

In the development of the JSNA and the joint health and wellbeing strategy, the health and wellbeing board will be able to consider how to help services join up around individuals, rather than isolated services, which can particularly improve the experience of the people with needs that can require action across multiple services.

Monitor: Finance

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to publish information on Monitor's expected operating budget in the first financial year following enactment of the Health and Social Care Bill. [69210]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government published a revised impact assessment on 8 September 2011 for the Health and Social Care Bill following the Bill's introduction to the House of Lords. The impact assessment contains information on the expected costs of running Monitor.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 646-48W on Sativex, what definition of a prescription item was used in the answer; and whether the information given in the answer referred to *(a)* 5ml bottles of Sativex, *(b)* 10ml bottles of Sativex and *(c)* other prescribed doses of Sativex. [70480]

Mr Simon Burns: Prescriptions are written on a prescription form known as a FP10. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item. An item does not refer to the amount being prescribed and therefore an item could be a number of doses, a single vial or multiple vials.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of changing levels of prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions on the national health service; and if he will make a statement. [70409]

Paul Burstow: National health service commissioners are responsible for assessing the changing needs of their populations and for commissioning appropriate services within available resources. Information on the national prevalence of the major musculoskeletal conditions is available from various publicly available sources. In assessing the overall funding needed for the NHS, the Department takes into account a range of factors including changes in demand resulting from the changing health needs of an aging population.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many violent attacks there were by patients on *(a)* other patients and *(b)* staff in each hospital trust in the west midlands and Warwickshire in each of the last five years. [70356]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department. Data on violence against national health service staff are available on the NHS Business Services Authority website at the following address:.

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/SecurityManagement/2286.aspx

NHS: Manpower

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* NHS dentists, *(c)* NHS nurses and *(d)* NHS doctors have been employed in (i) the Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [70095]

Mr Simon Burns: The annual NHS work force census collects the number of staff employed in the NHS in England at 30 September each year. The numbers of general practitioners (GPs), dentists, nurses and doctors employed in the Jarrow constituency are not available, however, Jarrow is contained within the trusts shown in the following tables. The numbers for South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT) and NHS Foundation Trust, the North East Strategic Health Authority and England are shown in the following tables:

Number of GPs, NHS nurses and NHS doctors in selected areas[1] in England, 1997-2010

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
General practitioners[3]								
England		28,046	28,251	28,467	28,593	28,802	29,202	30,358
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		1,432	1,426	1,446	1,453	1,514	1,535	1,611
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gateshead PCT	5KF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	122	127
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	84	88
GP practice nurses								
England		18,389	18,894	19,495	19,200	19,846	20,983	21,667
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		807	954	1,002	881	942	1,031	1,117
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gateshead PCT	5KF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	104	109
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	77	80
Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical and dental staff[4, 5]								
England		60,230	62,140	63,994	66,067	68,484	72,168	76,400
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		3,548	3,542	3,749	3,953	4,053	4,178	4,330
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	179	206	199	210	209	208	235
Gateshead PCT[5]	5KF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	13
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	141	131	157	176	242	218	220
South Tyneside PCT[5]	5KG	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	10

Number of GPs, NHS nurses and NHS doctors in selected areas[1] in England, 1997-2010

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Qualified Nursing Staff[5, 6]								
England		300,467	304,563	310,142	316,752	330,535	346,537	364,692
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		17,791	18,079	18,870	19,125	20,035	20,473	20,991
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	n/a	1,201	1,179	1,196	1,226	943	969
Gateshead PCT[5]	5KF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	230	237
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	905	854	899	891	916	615	624
South Tyneside PCT[5]	5KG	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	180	185

		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010[2]*
General practitioners[3]								
England		31,523	32,738	33,091	33,364	34,010	35,917	35,120
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		1,678	1,726	1,815	1,779	1,814	1,891	1,844
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gateshead PCT	5KF	128	128	134	143	148	152	155
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	88	97	100	97	100	107	105
GP practice nurses								
England		22,144	22,904	23,797	22,860	22,048	21,935	21,325
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		1,124	1,064	1,167	1,123	1,099	1,224	1,097
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gateshead PCT	5KF	102	112	95	95	82	118	80
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	72	66	54	54	47	73	51
Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical and dental staff[4, 5]								
England		82,951	87,043	90,243	91,790	95,942	100,628	101,917
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		4,699	4,764	4,942	5,145	5,367	5,686	5,820
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	248	267	264	288	309	327	335
Gateshead PCT[5]	5KF	15	15	12	12	11	10	34

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010[2]
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	231	137	145	163	173	184	193
South Tyneside PCT[5]	5KG	10	9	9	9	8	9	1
Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Qualified Nursing Staff[5, 6]								
England		375,371	381,257	374,538	376,737	386,112	395,229	389,290
of which:								
North East Strategic Health Authority area		22,065	22,291	22,220	22,296	22,937	23,153	22,882
of which:								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	1,002	1,044	993	1,048	1,095	1,184	1,036
Gateshead PCT[5]	5KF	253	306	325	379	387	423	1,274
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	625	639	612	550	540	543	565
South Tyneside PCT[5]	5KG	251	241	235	253	250	261	1

n/a = Denotes not applicable

[1] NHS Workforce data are not available at constituency level. Jarrow is contained within and serviced by the trusts provided here.

[2] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers.

[3] General practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars).

[4] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

[5] As part of the changes that are currently effecting the organisational structure of the NHS the legally defined PCTs have clustered into larger regional units to provide a more consistent approach to care in their local health economy and to benefit from the savings such as shared management teams that this offers. In the case of the PCTs in the North East of England these changes have been present for some time and this can be seen in the increases and decreases in staff numbers (for example qualified nurses) across the PCTs as provision has been centred on one of the local PCTs within the cluster

[6] Nursing figures include Bank staff.

Notes:

1. GP Data as 1 October 1997-99 and 30 September 2000-10.
2. All other figures as at 30 September each year.
3. PCTs did not exist prior to 2002, before this comparable figures are not available.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies within the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
2. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
3. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census

Number of GDS and PDS dentists[1] by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT), for selected organisations[2] in England, as at 31 March each year

	Strategic health authority/primary care trust	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	England	16,470	16,932	17,475	17,988	18,353	18,657	18,801	19,026	19,797	21,111
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	461	474	485	487	495	511	520	529	549	555
	of which:										
5KF	Gateshead PCT	81	87	88	87	94	87	85	86	78	78
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	60	59	61	63	61	62	64	60	61	74

Number of GDS and PDS dentists[1] by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT), for selected organisations[2] in England, as at 31 March each year

	Strategic health authority/primary care trust	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	354	364	368	375	376	383	386	395	400	420

[1] This information is based on the old dental contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

[2] NHS Workforce data are not available at constituency level. Jarrow is contained within and serviced by the trusts provided here.

Notes:

1. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas. PCT and SHA areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics All Fields Postcode Directory.
2. Dentists consist of principals, assistant and trainees. Information on NHS dentistry in the community dental service, in hospitals and in prisons are excluded.
3. The data in this report are based on NHS dentists on PCT lists. These details were passed on to the BSA who paid dentists based on activity undertaken. A dentist can provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT. In some cases an NHS dentist may appear on a PCT list but not perform any NHS work in that period. Most NHS dentists do some private work. The data do not take into account the proportion of NHS work undertaken by dentists.
4. Figures for the numbers of dentists at specified dates may vary depending on the date the figures are compiled. This is because the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) may be notified of joiners or leavers to or from the GDS or PDS up to several months, or more, after the move has taken place.
5. SHA and PCT data include all dentists practising in that area. Some dentists may have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one PCT or SHA and therefore they have been counted more than once. The total number of dentists given for England does not include duplication.
6. The boundaries used are as at 31 March 2006.

Sources:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care.
2. NHS Business Services Authority (BSA).

NHS: Redundancy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on redundancy packages for staff in the NHS who have gone on to work in another role in the NHS within *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months in each of the last three years. [69738]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the amount of expenditure on redundancy packages for national health service staff who have gone on to work in another NHS role is not collected centrally.

NHS: Reorganisation

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there will be a neurology advisory group within the NHS Commissioning Board, as part of the new NHS structure to be established under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [70411]

Mr Simon Burns: Professional and clinical leadership and advice will be central to the decisions made by the NHS Commissioning Board. 'Developing the NHS Commissioning Board' sets out the intention to structure the board around the five domains of the outcomes framework, with clear arrangements for key service areas that would gain particular benefit from dedicated professional and clinical leadership. The NHS Commissioning Board, once established in legislation, will determine the governance structures for these service areas.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses are currently employed in NHS hospitals in each region; and what estimate his Department has made of the number which will be employed in 2014-15. [70077]

Anne Milton: Owing to the way the numbers of staff employed are reported, it is not possible to separate nurses from the all qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff group. The following table gives the headcount and full-time equivalent figures from the NHS Information Centre annual census as at 30 September 2010.

Qualified Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Staff

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
England	389,290	322,190
North East Strategic Health Authority	22,882	19,872
North West Strategic Health Authority	59,247	50,040
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	39,861	33,491
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	28,693	24,086
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	42,253	34,647
East of England Strategic Health Authority	36,582	29,691
London Strategic Health Authority	67,450	56,226
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	27,165	21,763
South Central Strategic Health Authority	25,962	20,980
South West Strategic Health Authority	37,357	29,781
Special Health Authorities and other statutory bodies	2,058	1,612

Note:

As at 30 September 2010

Local healthcare organisations know the healthcare needs and priorities of their local populations. They are best placed to determine the work force required to deliver safe patient care within their available resources. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) produce integrated plans for their own areas and as part of the 2011-12 integrated planning process, the Department has agreed and signed off the SHA integrated plans for 2011-12. These will be published shortly.

Obesity: Health Services

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to review the regulation by the Care Quality Commission of organisations that offer medical anti-obesity services. [69566]

Mr Simon Burns: The scope of registration by the Care Quality Commission is set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010. The regulated activities include:

> treatment of disease, disorder or injury by, or under the supervision of, a specified health care professional;
>
> surgical procedures carried out by a health care professional for the purposes of treating disease, disorder or injury or for cosmetic purposes; and
>
> services in slimming clinics by or under the direction of a medical practitioner, where that includes the prescribing of weight reduction medication.

All providers of regulated activities must be registered with the Care Quality Commission and meet 16 essential requirements of safety and quality.

In keeping with the regulatory reform agenda, the Department is committed to keeping the regulations under review.

Physical Therapy

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to promoting World Physical Therapy Day; and if he will make a statement. [70533]

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Department plans to promote World Physical Therapy Day in 2011. [71244]

Anne Milton: While the Department did not plan to promote World Physical Therapy Day on 8 September 2011 it was aware of the Workout at Work Day which the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy launched that day and of the many events, small and large, that were being planned locally as part of this initiative. The initiative complements the NHS 2012 Sport and Physical Activity Challenge to have national health service employees actively engaged in sport or physical activity as part of, or associated with, their NHS employment, by the time of the Olympics in 2012.

Solvents: Misuse

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths there have been arising from volatile substance abuse *(a)* nationwide, *(b)* in each region, *(c)* by age group, *(d)* by sex and *(e)* by substance determined as the cause of death in each of the last five years. [70469]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths there have been arising from volatile substance abuse (a) nationwide, (b) in each region, (c) by age group, (d) by sex and (e) by substance determined as the cause of death in each of the last five years. (70469)

The tables provide the number of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and a volatile substance was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate for England, Wales, and English regions (Table 1), by age group (Table 2) and by sex (Table 3), in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010 (the latest year available). Figures showing the substances involved in these deaths are not provided, as this information has not been consistently recorded over time.

ONS reports annually on deaths relating to drug poisoning in England and Wales. For each death, every substance noted on the death certificate or mentioned by the coroner is recorded. It is important to note that the figures presented are not the total number of deaths involving volatile substances as (i) the underlying cause must be within the ONS definition of drug poisoning and (ii) the volatile substance may not be recorded by the coroner on the death certificate.

Deaths associated with volatile substance abuse are under-reported in official statistics based on death registration data. A project called the 'National Programme for Substance Abuse Deaths' (NPSAD), funded by the Department of Health, was established to measure trends in these deaths in the UK. The latest report from NPSAD on deaths associated with the abuse of volatile substances is available at:

www.vsareport.org.

Table 1. Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate, England, Wales and English regions, 2006-10[1, 2, 3, 4]

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
England	20	22	17	19	17
North East	1	3	1	4	3
North West	1	0	3	4	3
Yorkshire and The Humber	4	4	2	1	0
East Midlands	2	0	3	0	4
West Midlands	3	4	1	3	2
East of England	0	4	2	1	2
London	5	2	0	2	1
South East	4	3	3	2	1
South West	0	2	2	2	1
Wales	0	1	1	0	3

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (ICD 10 codes shown in Box 1) and where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Deaths of non-residents are excluded.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate, by age, England and Wales, 2006-10[1, 2, 3]

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Under 20	2	5	2	7	4
20-29	9	7	5	6	6
30-39	6	6	9	4	5
40-49	2	3	2	1	3
50 and over	1	2	0	1	2

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (ICD 10 codes shown in Box 1) and where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 3. Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate, by sex, England and Wales, 2006-10[1, 2, 3]

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Males	17	20	16	18	14
Females	3	3	2	1	6

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (ICD 10 codes shown in Box 1) and where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box1

ICD-10 Code	*Description*
F11-F16, F18-F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Worcestershire Primary Care Trust: Property

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reach a decision on the future of property previously owned by Worcestershire Primary Care Trust. [70257]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are currently working with national health service providers to agree the portfolio of properties that will transfer to them. The Department expects to sign off the provisional lists by 15 December 2011, and that transfers of estate would commence in 2012.

PCTs will retain those parts of the estate not transferred to NHS providers, for the time being. Further guidance relating to this part of the estate will be issued in due course.

Solvents: Misuse

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has had recent discussions with the devolved Administrations on the funding of statistical information on the prevention of volatile substance abuse; [70463]

(2) what funding his Department has allocated to the prevention of volatile substance abuse in each of the last three years; [70465]

(3) what recent representations his Department has received on funding for the collation of information on volatile substance abuse; [70466]

(4) what steps his Department is taking to support the collection of statistics on volatile substance abuse deaths during the comprehensive spending review period; [70467]

(5) how much funding his Department has allocated for the collation of statistics relating to volatile substance abuse deaths in each of the last five years. [70468]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is reviewing its existing public health information and intelligence functions and considering what data should be collected to inform the work of Public Health England. Decisions on the data requirements for a drugs early warning system, including the collection of Volatile Substance Abuse (VSA) mortality data in the future will need to be based on the outcome of this work. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and the British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association have made representations about the importance of collecting data on VSA.

Spend by the Department on the collection and publication of statistics on VSA is shown in the following table:

	Spend (£)
20011-12	0
2010-11	0
2009-10	49,218
2008-09	49,218
2007-08	49,218

There have been no recent discussions with the devolved Administrations concerning the funding of statistical information on VSA.

Frank, the Government's drug information and advice service, provides young people with knowledge to help prevent drug use. The following table shows Frank campaign funding for the last three years for which figures are available. This excludes spending on the Frank helpline which is funded through a contract for various helplines in which the costs attributable to Frank are not separately identified, but are estimated to be more than £800,000 per annum.

	Amount (£ million)
2008-09	6.97
2009-10	5.07
2010-11	0.19

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands: Assets

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assets Advantage West Midlands holds in Worcestershire; and how such assets are to be disposed of. [69550]

Mr Prisk: Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has a single property asset in Worcestershire, the former Eon substation land adjacent to Bromsgrove Technology Park. This asset is contractually committed to transfer into PxP West Midlands which is the AWM Joint Venture Property Vehicle. PxP West Midlands owns the remainder of the Bromsgrove Technology Park.

Agency Workers Regulations 2010

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the amendment of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010. [70538]

Mr Davey: The Government have recently amended the Agency Workers Regulations using SI 2011/1941.

The Government take the view that the absolute priority must be to retain the 12-week qualifying period agreed between the TUC and CBI and have no current plans for further amendments which could put this qualifying period at risk.

We have worked closely with businesses and the recruitment industry to help them prepare for the changes and have published guidance that will help them fully understand their legal obligations as of October.

Apprentices: Construction

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support the Government offers to self-employed construction workers in taking on apprentices. [67966]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service works with all types of employers in England, including micro businesses, to help them bring apprentices into their business. Employers can access information on apprenticeships by direct telephone or via the website:

http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/employers.aspx

Initially, very small businesses may prefer to engage with the programme through an Apprenticeship Training Association (ATA). The National Apprenticeship Service regional work force team can advise employers on the best option for them.

By their very nature, individuals may be employed by the ATA to begin with, but would be expected to be placed with an employer once they have finished their apprenticeship.

Business

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which entrepreneurs and representatives of business *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have consulted on its policy on small and medium-sized enterprises since his appointment. [69257]

Mr Prisk: Ministers and officials from this Department regularly engage with entrepreneurs and business representative groups on a wide range of issues affecting small and medium-sized enterprises. Regular bilaterals are held with key business representative groups at both ministerial and official level to discuss the impact of current policies and to consult on potential new policies.

There are also more formal mechanisms for ministerial engagement including the Small Business Economic Forum which brings together the business representative bodies, the banks (as required) and a few individual entrepreneurs; and the Entrepreneurs' Forum which comprises 17 entrepreneurs.

Business: Government Assistance

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications were made to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme in the last 12 months; and how many of those applications were successful *(a)* in the Dudley metropolitan borough and *(b)* nationally. [70118]

Mr Prisk: Small businesses apply for a commercial loan from a lender. If the lender deems that the loan applicant is viable but lacks the necessary security or financial track record, the lender is able to offer an Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) backed loan. In the period September 2010 to September 2011, 3,720 EFG backed loans to businesses were drawn nationally, with a total value of £332 million. In the district of Dudley, for the same period, there were 16 EFG backed loans drawn, with a value of £3.9 million.

Competition and Markets Authority

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the inclusion of consideration on health and sustainable development within the remit of the proposed Competition and Markets Authority. [69308]

Mr Davey: We consider that the main focus of the proposed new Competition and Markets Authority should be on competition.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for a suspension of the implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive. [70524]

Mr Davey: The Government currently have no plans to suspend the implementation of the Agency Workers Directive; the regulations implementing the directive will come into force on 1 October 2011.

The Government take the view that the absolute priority must be to retain the 12-week qualifying period agreed between the TUC and CBI and have no current plans for further amendments which could put this qualifying period at risk.

We have worked closely with businesses and the recruitment industry to help them prepare for the changes and have published guidance that will help them fully understand their legal obligations as of October.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on small businesses of the entry into force of the EU Agency Workers Directive. [70537]

Mr Davey: There are no specific cost estimates for small businesses but agency working is less prevalent in smaller firms so the Impact Assessment concluded that the introduction of the directive was likely to have a lesser impact on smaller firms.

The January 2010 BIS Impact Assessment "European Parliament and Council Directive on working conditions for temporary agency workers" estimated that the costs of the entry into force of the EU Agency Workers Directive on private sector hirers amounted to around 0.3% (around £1.5 billion) of the total private sector wage bill.

The Government have worked closely with businesses and the recruitment industry to help them prepare for the changes and have published guidance that will help them fully understand their legal obligations as of October.

English Language: Education

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects on community cohesion and integration of planned reductions in funding for English for speakers of other languages. [68561]

Mr Hayes: The potential impact on adult learners participating in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses of the changes to eligibility criteria for fee remission proposed in the Government's 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' strategy (November 2010) are described in an equality impact assessment, published by this Department on 18 July 2011. This can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/e/11-1045-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-equality-impact

Green Investment Bank

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment he has made of progress in the state aid process for the Green Investment Bank; [68105]

(2) what credit rating he expects the Green Investment Bank to receive. [68111]

Mr Prisk: Implementation of the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will consist of three phases:

1. Incubation from 2012 to state aid approval. BIS will make direct investments.

2. Establishment as a stand-alone institution following state-aid approval.

3. Full borrowing powers from April 2015, subject to public sector net debt falling as a percentage of GDP.

There is no defined time limit for the state aid approval process although the required market investigation and evidence gathering often result in the process taking 18 months or more.

Phase III will see the GIB obtain borrowing powers and, depending on the chosen borrowing mechanism, work will begin in earnest on developing the credit rating of the GIB. It is not possible to say now what credit rating the GIB will receive. The Government's document "Update on the design of the Green Investment Bank" provides further detail on the proposals for the GIB.

Health Education

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans his Department has to promote exercise and wellbeing in the workplace; and if he will make a statement; [70406]

(2) what plans his Department has to promote physical activity at work; and if he will make a statement. [70407]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Health and Department for Work and Pensions work closely to promote exercise and well-being in the workplace by developing good practice and positive links between health and work to employers, healthcare professionals and individuals through a range of initiatives including fit for work service pilots, fit note and the helpline for small and medium sized enterprises.

In November 2010 the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), launched 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England' which sets out the Government's life-cycle approach to improving public health, including physical activity and health and well-being at work.

As a part of this strategy, in March 2011, the Secretary of State for Health launched the Public Health Responsibility Deal to utilise the potential for businesses and other organisations to improve public health and tackle health inequalities through their influence over food, alcohol, physical activity and health in the workplace.

The Health and Work network has developed four pledges, which 150 organisations have currently signed up to at least one pledge of aiming to reinforce understanding of the positive link between health and work amongst employers, employees and the general public. Around 100 organisations have pledged to adopt measures to encourage physical activity in the workplace, including walking and cycling to work. The public sector too will be playing its part and in July of this year, the Cabinet Secretary announced a Civil Service Physical Activity Challenge to encourage all civil service organisations to promote physical activity through the workplace.

Higher Education: Tyne and Wear

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people from *(a)* Jarrow constituency and *(b)* South Tyneside attended university in each year since 1997; and from which constituency the highest number of people attended university in each such year; [70420]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England enrolled at university in each year since 1997. [70425]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. The parliamentary constituency with the highest number of enrolments in each academic year is shown in the last column with the number of enrolments in brackets.

Enrolments[1] from Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East region and England UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997/98 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*England*	*Constituency with highest number*
1997-98	1,765	3,050	55,315	1,272,780	Bristol West (5,865)
1998-99	1,805	3,125	58,415	1,308,300	Bristol West (5,820)
1999-2000	1,790	3,090	60,050	1,309,505	Hendon (6,035)
2000-01	1,715	2,930	60,985	1,339,120	Hendon (6,225)
2001-02	1,775	3,000	62,615	1,377,475	Bristol West (6,990)
2002-03	1,875	3,250	65,980	1,435,655	Bristol West (6,980)
2003-04	1,980	3,420	67,925	1,492,580	Hendon (6,975)
2004-05	2,160	3,765	70,305	1,524,120	Bristol West (6,625)
2005-06	2,100	3,630	71,015	1,533,770	Bristol West (6,935)
2006-07	2,045	3,600	72,290	1,494,595	Bristol West (6,645)
2007-08	2,045	3,630	71,780	1,546,080	Bristol West (5,970)
2008-09	2,125	3,790	74,420	1,582,375	Bristol West (6,820)
2009-10	2,110	3,710	73,670	1,629,710	Bristol West (6,365)

[1] Covers enrolments from all levels and modes of study.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures exclude students whose geographical location could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Insolvency

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of micro-businesses in the insolvency profession. [69015]

Mr Prisk: Official sources of business statistics do not contain the information required to answer this question because businesses in the insolvency sector are not identified as a distinct industrial category.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Lancashire

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he has made available to the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership since its inception. [68782]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) are able to apply to Government funding to support their development through this Department's Capacity and Start-up Funds.

The Lancashire LEP was not in place in time to apply for funding from the first round of the capacity fund. They will be eligible to apply for the next round anticipated to open towards the end of this year. The partnership was eligible to apply for support from the start-up fund but chose not to submit an application.

LEPs can also apply for funding to support specific programmes or projects, for example, the Regional Growth Fund or through the Technology Strategy Board. LEPs can also access European funding streams or may receive financial support from local authorities.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1200W, on motor vehicles: industry, if he will initiate discussions with *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* other public bodies to increase the purchase by such bodies of motor vehicles produced in Britain. [70483]

Mr Prisk: There are no current plans to discuss this specific issue. However, as stated by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on 5 July 2011, the Government are considering whether the UK is making best use of the application of the European Union procurement rules, where they apply, and taking the most effective approach to procurement. Conclusions arising from this work will be published as part of the growth review, alongside the autumn statement.

National Renewable Energy Centre

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress his Department has made in facilitating the commissioning of the National Renewable Energy Centre's Nautilus marine energy testing facility. [69232]

Mr Prisk: Between 2009 and 2011, the National Renewable Energy Centre (Narec) received a £10 million grant from the "Strategic Investment Fund" in BIS for the Nautilus test rig. In addition, the project has European regional development fund funding in this financial year.

The build and commissioning of the facility is managed directly by Narec as the asset owner. BIS continues to monitor the project both directly and through its partner organisations to ensure timely completion. Narec are forecasting that the facility will be commissioned in spring 2012.

Nuclear Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what officials or special advisors in his Department provided briefings on nuclear power generation to the Government Chief Scientific Adviser between 10 and 15 March 2011; and if he will make a statement; [67955]

(2) how many *(a)* emails and *(b)* other communications officials or special advisors working in his Department sent to representatives of nuclear power companies or the nuclear power industry between 10 and 15 March 2011; how many officials or special advisors working in his Department were directly or indirectly involved in providing research or briefing support on nuclear power generation to Ministers or Government representatives between those dates; and if he will make a statement; [67953]

(3) what meetings took place between members of his ministerial team or officials working in his Department and representatives of nuclear power companies or the nuclear power industry between 10 and 15 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [67954]

Mr Prisk: There were no briefings given to the Government chief scientific adviser from officials or special advisers in BIS on nuclear power generation. A member of British Energy, now part of EDF energy, took part in a Scientific Advisory Group in Emergencies (SAGE) meeting on 15 March to provide specific advice on the type of reactor used at Fukushima Dai-ichi and its implications in the emerging incident. The individual involved was invited to provide specialist knowledge to the discussion on reactors built in the late 1960s/early 1970s. The minutes of that meeting are available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/go-science/science-in-government/global-issues/civil-contingencies/sage-15-march-2011

Nine emails were sent to representatives of nuclear power companies by BIS officials between 10 and 15 March. No other communications were sent. No officials or special advisers working in this Department were directly or indirectly involved in providing research or briefing support on nuclear power generation to Ministers or Government representatives.

The Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, attended a meeting on 11 March 2011, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Areva and Rolls Royce.

Occupational Pensions

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to provide information on the implications of proposed pension changes from 2012 for *(a)* sole traders, *(b)* micro firms, *(c)* small and medium enterprises and *(d)* large firms. [70154]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

Employers will be staged into the new duties in the Pensions Act 2008 to automatically enrol their workers into a workplace pension and to make contributions to their pension between October 2012 and September 2016. Large employers will be brought into the duties first and small firms will not have to implement automatic enrolment until April 2014 at the earliest. Sole traders are not covered by the reforms.

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) is responsible for ensuring employers are aware of their duties and how to comply with them. As part of this, TPR has already published:

Detailed guidance on the reforms for larger employers and intermediaries to explain the whole process of automatic enrolment:

http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/pensions-reform/detailed-guidance.aspx

Interactive tools which are targeted at smaller businesses, who may not have in-house pension expertise:

http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/tools.aspx

Leaflets and checklists to introduce the reforms to employers and their intermediaries:

http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers.aspx

TPR will be writing to all employers, 12 and three months ahead of the date when the employer duties will apply to them informing them of the date they need to start enrolling staff; where they can find out more information and guidance about the reforms; and a checklist of things they should consider. TPR has already written to the largest companies.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is working closely with TPR to develop an integrated programme of communications for employers explaining the reforms through a variety of media including national press, business websites and online.

In addition, DWP is developing information material to help employers of all sizes communicate the reforms to their workers, including templates to help employers meet their statutory information requirements.

Overseas Trade

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department publishes on future trade missions to be undertaken by Ministers of his Department; how much prior notification is provided to external bodies; and how such information is publicised. [68557]

Mr Prisk: Due to security considerations, these visits are not generally publicised. Only when all elements are finalised, including the business delegation, and at a time very near to the event, are details made more widely available.

Overseas Trade: East Midlands

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage the development of business and trade links between India and *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the east midlands. [69680]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have committed to an enhanced partnership with India, with trade and investment at the centre of our prosperity and growth agenda with it. A year on from the Prime Minister's visit to India we have enhanced our engagement with India politically and commercially, including:

the launch of an India-UK CEO forum;

a reinvigorated Joint Economic and Trade Committee;

the launch of UK-India Research and Education Initiative II;

the recent Economic and Financial Dialogue; and

many successful business deals which have led to the creation of jobs and an increase in our bilateral trade.

The Government, through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), continue to deliver a full programme of work related to increasing UK exports, attracting more Indian investment into the UK and improving the business environment in both countries.

In respect of the east midlands, following the closure of the East Midlands India Business Bureau, UKTI's east midlands team has taken over their work and appointed Stuart Muir to lead the development of Leicester and east midlands companies into India. He is developing an India strategy for the East Midlands. In the meantime current activity includes:

Support for the UK-India Food Conference and Buyer-Seller Meeting being organised by the Leicester-based Indo-British Trade Council to be held at the University of Leicester from 30 August to 1 September;

An inward visit to the East Midlands by a UKTI trade specialist from Mumbai in September focusing on the creative and media, and education and training sectors;

An Institute of Directors/UKTI seminar with the Deputy High Commissioner for Chennai in October at the Nottingham Conference Centre focused on India;

An east midlands trade mission to Mumbai and New Delhi in February/March 2012.

East midlands companies have access to UKTI and UK India Business Council services to assist them to enter the markets most suitable to their overseas business development needs.

Package Holidays: Consumers

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the consumer protection afforded to holidaymakers under Regulations 16 to 22 of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992; [70799]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness as a deterrent of the sanctions applicable to organisers who conduct tour operating businesses in contravention of the financial protection measures enacted by Regulations 16 to 22 of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992; [70800]

(3) whether he plans to amend the financial protection measures enacted by Regulations 16 to 22 of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. [70801]

Mr Davey: The Department has made no formal assessment of the effectiveness of regulations 16 to 22 of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 recently; neither has it formally assessed the effectiveness of the sanctions applicable to tour operators which operate in contravention of those provisions.

The Department is in regular contact with the enforcement authorities, package travel organisers and their representative organisations and consumer representatives. This contact has given us no cause for concern that these regulations are not generally complied with by those who organise packages, nor that the regulations do not provide adequate protection against organiser insolvency in respect of the vast majority of the millions of consumers who travel on packages every year.

The Department has no plans to amend the relevant regulations. We expect the European Commission to propose changes to the European directive which these regulations implement in the course of next year. We envisage that it will be necessary to amend the regulations generally when those negotiations have concluded.

Parthenon Group

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister for Universities and Science first met representatives of the Parthenon Group following his appointment; and whether subsequent meetings have taken place. [68166]

Mr Willetts: I have not met with representatives of the Parthenon Group.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is also available at:

http://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/disclosure-ministerial-hospitality-received-department-for-business

Postal Services: Fraud

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps Royal Mail takes to intercept postal scams *(a)* in general and *(b)* those targeted on elderly and vulnerable people. [70530]

Mr Davey: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

Postal Services: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the quality of postal services in Redditch constituency. [67495]

Mr Davey: This Department does not hold any information pertaining to the quality of the postal service in Redditch. Quality of service is an operational matter which is the responsibility of Royal Mail.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

Rolling Stock: Exports

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he has taken to assess the overseas market for the export of railway rolling stock manufactured in the UK; [68843]

(2) what steps he has taken to promote the export of railway rolling stock manufactured in the UK. [68852]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) rail sector team collects market intelligence from our commercial sections in UK embassies, high commissions and industry sources. This feeds into an annual UKTI rail sector action plan which is devised to identify overseas business opportunities for the UK rail sector. It is agreed in partnership with industry representatives who sit on the UKTI Rail Sector Advisory Group (which includes a rolling stock manufacturer) and the promotion of rolling stock equipment exports is part of that action plan. UKTI and relevant parts of the industry actively pursue these opportunities through a number of targeted activities including trade missions to key markets, inward VIP visits, and major rail exhibitions.

Vocational Education: Costs

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was, in current prices, of the Capita IT system for individual learning accounts. [65633]

Mr Hayes: The value of the contract with Capita for the delivery costs of the Individual Learning Accounts between the financial years 2000/01 and 2002/03 was set out in the 10th report from the Public Accounts Committee concerning the individual learning accounts. This is set out in the following table, alongside the respective amount in today's prices.

£

	Delivery costs—Capita contract[1]	*Real terms*[2]
2002/03	1,500,000	1,845,268
2001/02	20,500,000	26,030,754
2000/01	15,600,000	20,251,850

[1] Source—Public Accounts Committee Tenth Report—Individual Learning Accounts, published 17 April 2003.

[2] These figures have been calculated using HM Treasury Deflators, last updated 28 June 2011.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Olympic Games 2012

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 113-4WS, on Olympics: airspace, what estimate he has made of the potential change in the *(a)* number of night flights at Heathrow and *(b)* unexpected over-flights in respite periods during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [69531]

Mrs Villiers: The announcement about Olympics airspace restrictions will have no effect on the number of night flights at or over-flying Heathrow. There are no plans to amend the existing night flights regime at Heathrow during the Games period.

Biofuels

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the contribution of imports of biofuels from *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU sources to the achievement of the renewable transport target set under the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC); [69495]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of sustainable biofuels derived from feedstocks grown in the UK in each year to 2020; [69555]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential for investment in sustainable biofuels between 2014 and 2020. [69558]

Norman Baker: The Government support biofuels through the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). The RTFO includes a certificate trading mechanism to increase the efficiency of compliance.

The value of individual Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates (RTFCs) is determined by the market. We continue to monitor the market value of RTFCs and consider that to date the RTFO has met its objective of driving a market for renewable transport fuels in the UK.

The Department for Transport now administers the RTFO and produces statistics on the country of origin of feedstocks used for biofuels supplied under the RTFO. Unverified data for April 2010 to April 2011 are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/biofuels-statistics-quarterly-year-to-april-2011

These statistics suggest that 22% of biofuel supplied to the UK is derived from domestically sourced feedstocks. This is up on the figure from the previous year, when only 11% of biofuel came from feedstocks produced in the UK. The year before that, the figure was 9%.

There is no estimate made of the contribution of imports of biofuels to meeting targets in the renewable energy directive, or on the proportion of sustainable biofuels derived from feedstocks grown in the UK in each year, to 2020. However, the Department has commissioned a number of research projects, collectively known as the "Biofuels Modes research" to investigate the potential supply and use of biofuels in the UK out to 2020 and 2050.

This Biofuels Modes research is considering the availability of biofuel feedstock supply from the UK, and from EU and non-EU imports and will be published later this year. Further details on this work are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/biofuels/research/

Buses: Concessions

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the withdrawal of the coach concessionary travel scheme; and if he will make a statement. [70429]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: By 6 September 2011, the Department for Transport had received representations on changes in the funding of the concessionary coach travel scheme from a number of MPs on behalf of their constituents, from one coach operator and from a number of individuals. The funding changes were announced as part of the 2010 spending review.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people aged over 60 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* with a disability who are eligible for the Concessionary Coach Travel Scheme in (i) England, (ii) west midlands and (iii) Dudley borough. [70517]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: The following table shows population estimates from the Office for National Statistics of the number of people aged 60 years and older in mid-2010 who are eligible for the concessionary coach travel scheme in England:

Area	*2010*
(i) England	11,746,500
(ii) West Midlands	1,270,000
(iii) Dudley borough	77,000

The Department does not hold information on the number of people with a disability who are eligible for the concessionary coach travel scheme in England, the west midlands or Dudley borough.

Cars: Tyres

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions his Department has had on the provision by car manufacturers of non-standard tyres for use as spares in new vehicles; [70691]

(2) whether he has any plans to introduce a mandatory requirement for all motor vehicles to carry a spare wheel and tyre. [70692]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport is routinely engaged in discussions on EU and UNECE vehicle construction standards. These include standards on 'space saver' temporary use spare tyres. However there have not been any recent discussions on this particular issue.

There are no plans to introduce a mandatory requirement for vehicles to carry a spare wheel and tyre.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which reason the Dartford Crossing tolls were not lifted on 16 July 2011 in line with the protocol he announced on 30 June. [68673]

Mike Penning: On 16 July at 13.01pm a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) broke down on the QEII bridge which affected southbound traffic. The recovery took 50 minutes to complete because the HGV's air brakes had to be released mechanically.

The operation protocol set out the conditions which have to exist for a senior Highways Agency official to consider whether the Dartford Crossing charge can be suspended on a case by case basis. The conditions are that there has been or is likely to be an emergency situation, where continuous queues, travelling at less than 10 mph, extend back—or have the potential to extend back—to junctions 4 or 28 of the M25 or beyond, and where the suspension of the charge would ease the congestion and assist in managing the emergency situation. The protocol is set out in full at:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/documents/Dartford_Crossing_Charging_-__Suspension_Protocol_Rev_A.pdf

On 16 July, traffic at its most severe extended back for five miles from the Crossing and did not reach junction 28. This does not meet the criteria for suspending the tolls.

The HA will continue to assess all traffic conditions that occur at the Dartford Crossing on a case-by-case basis, against the criteria for severe congestion, during the six-month trial of the operational protocol, to evaluate its effectiveness in dealing with such circumstances.

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons tolls on the Dartford Crossing were not lifted on 26 July 2011 to take account of circumstances where queues on the M25 exceeded 10 miles. [69460]

Mike Penning: The traffic conditions on 26 July did not meet the specified criteria for severe congestion set out in the operational protocol being trialled by the Highways Agency. The Road User Charge was therefore not suspended.

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions Dartford tolls have been suspended since 1 July 2011. [70371]

Mike Penning: Since 1 July 2011, the Dartford Crossing Road User Charge has been suspended once, at 2.18 pm on 26 August.

East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to re-let the Intercity East Coast rail franchise. [63200]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 4 July 2011]*: The new InterCity East Coast franchise will commence in December 2013.

Electric Vehicles: Visual Impairment

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* representations (i) he and (ii) Ministers in his Department have had with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association on the audibility of (A) electric and (B) hybrid vehicles. [71208]

Norman Baker: Departmental officials have had some correspondence with Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to inform them of the start and publication of research the Department had commissioned on audibility and accident risk of hybrid and electric vehicles. Guide Dogs for the Blind also provided the Department with guidelines they had developed for artificial sound for hybrid and electric vehicles.

I have recently received a request from Richard Leaman, chief executive of Guide Dogs for the Blind for a meeting to discuss the results of research conducted by the Transport Research Laboratory on this issue and will be responding shortly.

Large Goods Vehicles

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* public health, *(b)* safety and *(c)* environmental effects of increasing the length of lorries; and if he will make a statement. [70689]

Mike Penning: The public health, safety and environmental effects of increasing the length of lorries were set out in the Impact Assessment and supporting research published alongside the consultation document. Further evidence provided in responses to the consultation is being reviewed.

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent consultations he has undertaken to ensure that his Department's proposals for longer lorries takes account of the views of *(a)* cyclists, *(b)* motoring organisations, *(c)* local government and *(d)* the rail industry; and if he will make a statement. [70690]

Mike Penning: The Government's consultation on whether to allow an increase in the length of articulated lorries was widely circulated to interested parties including cycling bodies, motoring organisations, local government bodies (the Local Government Association and the and Welsh Local Government Association) and the Rail Freight Group and rail freight operators.

In support of the consultation, the Department also offered to meet key bodies potentially affected by the proposals. Invitations were sent to the Freight Transport Association (FTA), the Road Haulage Association (RHA), the Rail Freight Group, Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT), Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT), Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS), Road Safety GB, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), the AA, Campaign for Better Transport, Freight on Rail, SUSTRANS, CTC, Campaign to protect Rural England, Friends of the Earth, the London Cycling Campaign (LCC), British Motorcyclists Federation (BMF), and Motorcycle Action Group UK (MAG).

The following organisations accepted the offer and met officials to discuss the proposals: FTA, RHA, the Rail Freight Group, CIHT, Campaign for Better Transport, Freight on Rail, CTC, LCC, BMF, MAG and Cambridge Cycling Campaign.

Merchant Shipping: Training

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has had recent discussions on steps to increase the number of Merchant Navy training facilities for *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks. [70340]

Mike Penning: None to date. In July, I visited Fleetwood Nautical Campus where I saw the excellent work of both the campus staff and the Merchant Navy Training Board in promoting and developing seafarer education, training and skills.

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Merchant Navy training facilities there were for *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks in the latest period for which figures are available. [70341]

Mike Penning: There are 12 colleges and universities around the UK that provide seafarer education and training programmes and courses aimed at both new entrants to the industry and experienced seafarers at all levels. The range of programmes and courses they provide is wide and varied.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment the Government has made of the level of use of the Motor Insurance Database by insurance companies for reasons other than reducing the number of uninsured cars on the road. [70783]

Mike Penning: None. The motor insurance industry is responsible for the Motor Insurance Database (MID) and for any decisions on access to or use of its data.

Network Rail: Biodiversity

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice his Department gives to Network Rail on sustaining biodiversity *(a)* alongside rail tracks and *(b)* on other land owned by Network Rail. [70819]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The Department for Transport does not provide specific advice or guidance on biodiversity management to Network Rail. However, Network Rail's network licence conditions as agreed with the Office of Rail Regulation require it to have a written policy designed to protect the environment.

In addition, and as set out in the Government's Natural Environment White Paper, "The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature" published in June 2011, we are committed to working with our transport agencies and key delivery partners, such as Network Rail, to contribute to the creation of coherent and resilient ecological networks, supported, where appropriate, by organisation-specific biodiversity action plans. In support of this the Department intends to host a forum with environmental stakeholders to inform future priorities for the enhancement of transport green corridors.

Northern Rail

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what subsidy has been paid from the public purse *(a)* directly and *(b)* via Passenger Transport Executives to Northern in each year of its franchise. [69028]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 6 September 2011]:* Details of subsidy and premium payments in respect of all train operating companies along with payments to

Passenger Transport Executives are published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends. This is available on the ORR's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

In addition, all transactions over £500 by the Department are published monthly on our website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/transparency

Official Cars

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any discretion is given to Ministers in the selection of a make of car for the purposes of official travel. [69553]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Cabinet Ministers are able to choose a car for official travel from the Government Car and Despatch Agency fleet. Models available include the Jaguar XJ and XF Diesel and the Toyota Avensis or Prius Hybrid. Other Ministers who use the ministerial car pool service are driven in a hybrid model from Toyota or Honda.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the make and model of each vehicle currently used by the Government Car and Despatch Agency's *(a)* allocated service and *(b)* ministerial car pool. [69771]

Mike Penning: The Government Car and Despatch Agency has a number of different car makes and models in its ministerial fleet as follows:

(a) Allocated service comprises:

1 x Jaguar XF

5 x Jaguar XJ

2 x Toyota Avensis Diesel

5 x Toyota Prius.

(b) Ministerial car pool comprises:

6 x Toyota Avensis Diesel

22 x Honda Civic Hybrid

42 x Toyota Prius.

Oil: Pollution

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government has used the European Maritime Safety Agency oil spill response vessels to respond to an oil spill in the last 10 years. [70047]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has not used the European Maritime Safety Agency oil spill response vessels in response to an oil spill in the last 10 years.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the European Maritime Safety Agency's oil spill response vessels are included in the UK's response to any oil spills. [70048]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency can use the European Maritime Safety Agency's oil spill response vessel in response to an oil spill in UK waters if appropriate.

Railways: Fares

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects passengers travelling between Bristol and the far South West to pay the same ticket price per mile as those travelling between Bristol and London after the completion of planned electrification works. [70236]

Mrs Villiers: The Government will be conducting a general review of fares policy but we do not currently have specific plans to change fares regulation on the two routes referred to by my hon. Friend.

Railways: Greater Manchester

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of peak-time rail travel in Greater Manchester. [70527]

Mrs Villiers: In May 2011, Network Rail produced a Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS) for the north of England. This included forecasts for increases in peak passenger demand into Manchester, as follows:

				Percentage
	2014	*2019*	*2024*	*2029*
Low	3	13	21	32
High	17	39	52	66

Base year:
2008-09 financial year

Railways: Passengers

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answers of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 188W and 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 496W, on railways: passengers, when he expects to provide an update on expected passenger demand on the London to Alton and London to Petersfield rail lines. [70239]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is continuing to work with Stagecoach South West Trains and Network Rail to assess future demand on the London to Alton and London to Petersfield rail lines with a view to securing additional passenger capacity. An announcement is expected to be made in due course.

Rescue Services

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether emergency calls would first be routed through the proposed Maritime Operations Centre under the revised proposals for the future of the Coastguard Service; and whether his Department has conducted a risk assessment of such a change in the coastguard's operations. [69443]

Mike Penning: The concept of operations in the revised proposals still provides, as at present, that distress alerts, whether from radio or the 999 system, would be routed in the first instance to the nearest co-ordination centre for handling.

This represents no change to the process currently in place for the handling of emergency calls and therefore no risk assessment is necessary.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many outage incidents there have been at *(a)* Milford Haven and *(b)* Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in the last year; and how many servers have been replaced in each location in that period. [70710]

Mike Penning: Outage is defined as:

> "Failure of Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) communication systems such that the ability to communicate via VHF radio, DSC or telephone is compromised to the extent that alternative 'off station' procedures are put into place to continue service."

In the past year to date:

> *(a)* there have been three unplanned and two planned outages at Milford Haven MRCC; and
>
> *(b)* one planned outage at Swansea MRCC.

In respect of the unplanned outages at Milford Haven, the failures have been traced back to a root cause of excess moisture in the power and equipment space and remedial work has been undertaken to rectify this. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has taken the opportunity under the planned outages to proactively replace elements of the mains wiring infrastructure that were shown to be close to capacity.

Under the proposed technical design for the future coastguard architecture, the types of failure that have affected Milford Haven would not have the same impact to operational frontline services as they have had to date. The services would be connected to two separate data centres housed away from the local operations rooms, and as such any local power or server failure would only affect the local operator's ability to connect to the resources and other operators around the UK would be able to maintain operational communications within the area(s) affected.

In the past year to date:

> *(a)* there have been three servers replaced, three new servers installed, and one server removed at Milford Haven MRCC; and
>
> *(b)* four servers replaced, two new servers installed, and one server removed at Swansea MRCC.

These server changes have all been as the result of planned project upgrades as part of the Radio Equipment Replacement upgrade project.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he consulted local coastguard management in reaching his decision that there are no operational or financial factors that favour retention of either Milford Haven or Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre over the other. [70712]

Mike Penning: The announcement we made on 14 July took full account of the advice of the senior management of the MCA. We included a specific question in the consultation document to provide everyone, including local coastguard managers, with an opportunity to bring to our attention any additional factors to be addressed before reaching final conclusions.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* rooms, *(b)* working space and *(c)* facilities are available at (i) Milford Haven and (ii) Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre. [70713]

Mike Penning: The descriptions of the space and facilities at Milford Haven and Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) are as follows:

(i) Milford Haven MRCC Facilities (418.3 Square Metres)

MCA Marine Surveyors unit and office

Administration unit office/Reception area

Operations Room

Radio Room

Emergency Planning/Training/Meeting Room (30+ persons)

Spare office for visiting officers/Press/Second meeting room (12 persons)

Large Rescue Co-ordination Centre Manager's Office/Third meeting area

MCA Vessel Traffic and Monitoring Systems Manager's Office

Kitchen/Galley

Gents/Ladies WC

Disabled WC

Shower Room

Rest Room

Locker room

Store/Archive room

2nd Store/File room

Cleaner/utility room

Boiler room

Plant room (A/C)

Integral Fuel store/Generator room

Bike/General purpose shed

MCA (HSE licensed) Expired Pyrotechnic Bunkers (x two)

Own car park and shared overflow car park (with co-sited Port Authority Control HQ Building)

(ii) Swansea MRCC Facilities (574.5 Square Metres)

Regional Business Unit Office

Operations Room

Emergency Planning Room

Radio Room

Coastal Safety Manager's Office

Spare Office for visiting officers

Regional Business Manager's Office

Conference/Training Room

Kitchen/Galley

Gents/Ladies WC

Disabled WC

Shower Room

Rest Room

Regional Civil Contingencies Manager's Office

Press Office

Rescue Co-ordination Centre Manager's Office

Locker room

Store room

File room

Boiler room

Plant room (A/C)

Regional Business Unit Archive Store

Aerial tower (next to building)

Bike shed

Fuel store/Generator room (near to but separate from the main building).

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the relocation of the Regional Business Unit of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency based at the Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre. [70714]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) currently has no intention to vacate the building at Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) due to the other MCA functions that operate from the site. Therefore the MCA has no current plans to relocate the MCA's Regional Business Unit from its present site.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used to identify the location for Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres to be retained in the coastguard reform process. [70715]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) published a suite of documents about the impact and risks in respect of the coastguard modernisation proposals in the first consultation document, published on 16 December 2010. The Location Impact Assessment, sub-centre rationale and supporting tables can be found on the MCA's website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/8.location_impact_assessment_and_sub-centre_rationale_v3.pdf

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents were dealt with by *(a)* Milford Haven and *(b)* Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in the last five years. [70716]

Mike Penning: Incident statistics for the years 2006-10 for all Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) are available on the MCA's website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/hmcg_adu_2006-2010_by_station.pdf

The incident numbers for Milford Haven and Swansea MRCCs are as follows:

	MRCC	
	Swansea	*Milford Haven*
2006	1,239	676
2007	1,533	724
2008	1,304	680
2009	1,836	770
2010	1,795	774

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the running costs were of *(a)* Milford Haven and *(b)* Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in the last five years. [70717]

Mike Penning: The following table shows the annual running costs for the Swansea and Milford Haven Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) for the last five complete financial years. These include costs for telecoms; utilities; rates; repairs and maintenance to the estate; grounds maintenance; cleaning; waste disposal; and furniture and fittings.

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Swansea MRCC	0.11	0.10	0.07	0.10	0.08
Milford Haven MRCC	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.06

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the consultation exercise on his revised proposals for reform of the coastguard service will be subject to the same independent review procedure as the original consultation, Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century. [71059]

Mike Penning: Yes. The consultation will be subject to the same review procedure as the original consultation.

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from which local authority area each of the successful applicants came in the last three trawls for new coastguard officers to serve at Milford Haven Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre. [71096]

Mike Penning: Six new coastguard officers were employed as a result of the last three trawls for positions at Milford Haven Maritime Coordination Rescue Centre. At the time of their recruitment the individuals lived in the following local authorities:

Two in Pembrokeshire county council;
Two in Ceredigion county council;
One in Powys county council; and
One in city and county of Swansea.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the procurement of new diesel trains. [69487]

Mrs Villiers: The procurement of rolling stock is usually a matter for train operators and rolling stock leasing companies, with the Department's role being limited to ensuring that taxpayers and fare-payers receive value for money.

The expansion in the number of electrified rail routes may mean that fewer diesel trains will be needed in the future.

Rolling Stock: Public Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of administering rolling stock procurement in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010; and how much was spent in each category of expenditure. [69600]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: I regret that this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Shipping: EU Law

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to establish a vessel traffic monitoring and information system following the request from the EU Commission of 16 June 2011. [69202]

Mike Penning: The UK already has established vessel traffic and monitoring systems in place based on the requirements of the original EU directive in 2002. The EU Commission's letter of 16 June 2011 concerns the UK's implementation of the 2009 amending directive, which makes several changes to the systems already established.

Secondary legislation and the appropriate guidance required to implement the 2009 amending directive are being prepared with a view to them being in place by the end of the year.

Shipping: Sulphur

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* International Maritime Organisation on the effects on shipping of the sulphur emission levels in emissions control areas. [68870]

Mike Penning: While no Secretary of State level meetings have been held on this issue, officials at the Department for Transport *(a)* are in discussion with their colleagues in DEFRA and *(b)* play an active role in the discussions on this subject in the International Maritime Organisation.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* senior departmental officials had with representatives of (i) Bombardier and (ii) Siemens between 10 July 2008 and 16 June 2011 at which the Thameslink rolling stock contract was discussed. [68666]

Mrs Villiers: The information is as follows:

For the answer to *(a)* I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham) of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 767W.

In the period 10 July 2008-16 June 2011 senior departmental officials had a large number of meetings with representatives of both Bombardier and Siemens regarding the Thameslink rolling stock contract.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the *(a)* invitation to tender, *(b)* bid assessment criteria and *(c)* bid evaluation for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [R] [68703]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 236W and 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 969W.

Vehicle Number Plates: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on how many vehicles have failed an MOT test due to an issue with the vehicle's number plate in the last 12 months. [70871]

Mike Penning: Figures for the number of vehicles which have failed their MOT tests solely because of issues with the vehicle registration plate are not available. However, in 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, 135,809 cars, light vans and motorbikes failed an MOT due to an issue with the registration plate or vehicle identification number. These vehicles could have also failed the MOT for additional reasons.

A vehicle can fail an MOT due to the registration plate being missing; insecure; faded, dirty, deteriorated or obscured to the point that it is not easily legible to a person standing 20 metres from the vehicle; or the letters and figures being incorrectly spaced, of unequal width over the whole length, or likely to be misread.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 September 2011

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has evaluated on the effects on human health of residence near high-voltage power lines. [71573]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Health is responsible for the assessment of risks to human health and providing advice to Government Departments such as DECC. As such, DECC has not evaluated any research relating to human health of residence near high voltage power lines. The Department of Health is advised by the Health Protection Agency and both keep emerging science under review.

Energy: Prices

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what consideration he has given to regulating energy prices; [71559]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with energy companies on energy prices; [71560]

(3) what recent discussions his Department has had with Ofgem on energy prices; and if he will make a statement. [71561]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with Ofgem and energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means effective competition in the marketplace. We are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its retail market review. While greater competition should put pressure on prices, consumers should also regularly evaluate the best deal on the market.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the average unit cost of *(a)* natural gas and *(b)* electricity including all taxes, charged to electric arc steelmakers in (i) the UK, (ii) Holland, (iii) France, (iv) Spain and (v) Germany in the latest period for which figures are available. [71667]

Charles Hendry: DECC holds no information on energy costs to specific industries in the UK or Europe. However, DECC does collect energy price data for UK industry for different consumption sizebands and supplies this to Eurostat, the European Union's statistical agency.

Eurostat publishes industrial gas and electricity price data for all EU member states. Prices in the largest sizebands could be used as a proxy for electric arc steelmakers.

Prices detailed as follows include all taxes not refundable on purchase.

	Pence per kWh, July-December 2010	
	Natural gas: Large consumers consuming 27,778-277,777 MWh per annum	*Electricity: Extra large consumers: consuming 420,000 MWh per annum with a maximum demand of 50 MW*
UK	1.78	6.70
Netherlands	2.32	7.09
France	2.35	4.71
Spain	2.14	5.68
Germany	3.26	7.64
EU 15 median	2.35	6.31

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from *(a)* Macmillan Cancer Support, *(b)* Citizens Advice, *(c)* Crisis and *(d)* the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health on minimum standards of energy efficiency for private rented homes; what response he gave in each case; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71170]

Gregory Barker: The Department received a representation from these organisations, among others, on 2 September, to which a written response will be given shortly.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward amendments to the Energy Bill to make letting agents responsible for complying with the minimum standard of energy efficiency for private rented homes. [71015]

Gregory Barker: Existing provisions under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 will prevent letting agents from marketing private rented homes which do not meet the minimum standard of energy efficiency.

Therefore, an amendment to the Energy Bill is not necessary.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward amendments to the Energy Bill to introduce a minimum standard of energy efficiency for private rented homes in 2016. [71016]

Gregory Barker: We are committed to working with the sector to encourage uptake of the Green Deal well ahead of 2018. For this reason, I have been clear that I see 2018 as the 'finishing line' as opposed to the 'starting line' for this policy. However, if we do not see the sector responding well ahead of this date we could reconsider the timing and introduce regulations earlier.

Energy: Tenants

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward amendments to the Energy Bill to ensure that tenants are protected from retaliatory eviction if they make requests of their landlords for energy efficiency improvements. [71014]

Gregory Barker: The Department has set up a working group involving a range of key stakeholders to explore the issue of retaliatory evictions in relation to the private rented sector provisions in the Energy Bill. This group will report to Ministers in DECC and the Department for Communities and Local Government in October 2011.

Feed-in Tariffs: Schools

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* schools and *(b)* hospitals that have participated in the (i) feed-in tariff and (ii) renewable heat incentive since his appointment. [71178]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem provide information on the number of installations registered for the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme which started in April 2010. While this does not provide information in the form requested, it does show a total of 558 community installations accredited for FITs, which could include installations on schools and hospitals.

There have been no participants in the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme as it is not yet open for applications. Subject to state aid approval, the Government intends that the RHI will open for applications from the non-domestic sector on 30 September 2011.

Fuel Poverty: Private Sector

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to alleviate fuel poverty in the private rented sector; what recent discussions he has had with (i) Ministers in HM Treasury and (ii) other ministerial colleagues on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71169]

Gregory Barker: Currently the Warm Front scheme in England provides support to private housing tenures, including the private rented sector. In addition, the carbon emissions reduction target, which was extended to December 2012, sets new requirements on suppliers to increase the proportion of benefits (energy efficiency measures like insulation) going to the most vulnerable low income, family, pensioner and disabled households.

From late 2012, through the Green Deal, the Government will help to improve the energy efficiency of all households, including those in fuel poverty in the private rented sector. The Green Deal will be supported by the energy company obligation (ECO). As well as driving carbon savings, the ECO will have a significant focus on providing 'Affordable Warmth' to support those with the lowest incomes and the most vulnerable, contributing to the Government's efforts to alleviate fuel poverty. We will be consulting shortly on eligibility for this element of the ECO, taking into account evidence on fuel poverty in different tenures, as part of our wider consultation.

Furthermore, provisions in the Energy Bill will further target the private rented sector by making it unlawful for landlords to rent out properties that do not reach a minimum standard energy efficiency from 2018. In addition, from 2016, all tenants should not be unreasonably refused consent from their landlords to make reasonable energy efficiency improvements.

We continue to engage across Government on this issue.

Green Deal Scheme: Housing

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to protect tenants from eviction for requesting *(a)* energy efficiency improvements and *(b)* to participate in the Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71002]

Gregory Barker: The Department has set up a working group involving a range of key stakeholders to explore the issue of retaliatory evictions in relation to the private rented sector provisions in the Energy Bill. This group will report to Ministers in DECC and the Department for Communities and Local Government in October 2011.

Nuclear Reactors

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Office for Nuclear Regulation has spent on the generic design assessment of prospective new nuclear reactor designs since the inception of that process; and what proportion of the expenditure has been recovered from *(a)* the prospective reactor vendors and *(b)* the prospective applicant utilities. [71670]

Charles Hendry: The Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency publish the regulatory costs of the generic design assessment process in their regular quarterly reports, available on the generic design assessment website:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/reports.htm

All of the regulatory costs incurred during the GDA process are recoverable from the GDA requesting parties (RPs). How the RPs further divide those costs is a matter for them.

The most recent report gives these for the period up to March 2011 as:

	£ million
Office for Nuclear Regulation	
Westinghouse	20.72
EDF and AREVA	20.77
Environment Agency	
Westinghouse	2.08

	£ million
EDF and AREVA	2.04

Vitol Group

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* contacts and *(b)* meetings he has had with Vitol Group since May 2010. [70521]

Gregory Barker: A list of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations is published quarterly on the Department's website.

Wind Power: Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for how many on shore wind turbines planning permission has been *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted in (i) England, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) the City of York since 1996; and how many turbines have been constructed in that period. [71491]

Charles Hendry: DECC's Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD)[1] tracks the progress of renewable electricity projects from inception, through planning, construction and operational phases and is updated on a monthly basis. The REPD data[2] (August 2011) showing the number of onshore wind turbines that have been applied for, have been consented and that are operational in England, North Yorkshire and York since 1996 are set out in the following table:

	England	*North Yorkshire*	*York District*
Number of turbines applied for[3]	2,621	80	10
Number of turbines approved[4]	1,496	49	5
Number of turbines operational	740	33	0

[1] http://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database/

[2] Data include resubmitted applications but exclude many small-scale, micro-generation sites, typically of less than 50 kW installed capacity.

[3] Data are comprised of planning applications that have been approved, refused or are currently under consideration.

[4] Data are comprised of consented projects that are operational, under construction or awaiting construction.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Agriculture

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to improve the welfare of farmed animals since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [70655]

Mr Paice: We have set up a new Animal Health and Welfare Board for England to have responsibility for strategic animal health and welfare policy, and oversight of its delivery in relation to England. Groups within the new rural and farming network will be able to engage with Ministers on local animal health and welfare issues.

On 1 April we combined DEFRA's two key agencies for protecting animal health and welfare into a single body: the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. This joined up approach will enhance our response to animal diseases and protecting the welfare of farmed animals.

We have implemented EU Council Directive 2007/43, which lays down minimum standards to protect the welfare of conventionally reared meat chickens. The implementing regulations set a maximum stocking density of 39 kg/m(^{2}), set training requirements for all keepers and require post mortem conditions and mortality rates to be assessed as an indicator of on-farm welfare.

For the first time, we have introduced a Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes which came into force in January 2011.

We are working with the UK industry to ensure that no hens will be in battery cages by January 2012.

We have issued proposals to ensure that farm inspections in future will be better targeted on those farms more likely to have welfare problems.

We have set up an expert group to advise on practical ways of delivering our commitment to ban beak trimming of laying hens in 2016.

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee continues to provide independent advice to DEFRA on animal welfare. In addition to funding a wide range of scientific research on animal welfare subjects, we also continue to commission ADAS to raise awareness of farmed animal welfare issues and provide guidance to farmers in order to promote good stockmanship and high standards of animal welfare on-farm, in transport and at slaughter through their awareness workshops.

We are currently considering the role CCTV can play in helping ensure slaughterhouse operators discharge their current and future supervision and monitoring obligations.

Animal Welfare: Convictions

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions for offences of cruelty to animals there were in *(a)* Coventry, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* the UK in each year since 2000; and how many people were cautioned in each such year. [70370]

Mr Paice: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts, and the number of offenders cautioned for offences of cruelty to animals in west midlands police force area, and England and Wales for the years 2000 to 2010 (latest available) are listed in the following table.

Information available centrally only allows an area breakdown based on police force areas, so separate statistics are not available for Coventry.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts, and the number of offenders cautioned for offences of cruelty to animals[1] in west midlands police force area and England and Wales, 2000-10[2,3]

Outcome/region	*2000*[4]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[5]	*2010*
West midlands police force area											
Found guilty	41	56	37	47	48	49	60	105	65	63	57
Cautions issued[6]	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	1
England and Wales[7]											
Found guilty	861	754	768	783	787	843	758	873	821	914	858
Cautions issued[6]	10	12	12	33	12	26	19	22	11	17	19

[1] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Cruelty to Animals—Protection of Animals Act 1911
Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering-S5.4& 32(1) Animal Welfare Act 2006

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.

[5] Post publication revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

[6] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence. From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[7] Includes west midlands police force area.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Animal Welfare: Diseases

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the effect of foot diseases on levels of lameness in the lamb and sheep population. [70412]

Mr Paice: Lameness in sheep is a significant welfare concern. DEFRA has conducted a number of research projects on sheep welfare and the causes and control of foot rot.

In March this year, DEFRA's expert committee on the welfare of farmed animals, the Farm Animal Welfare Committee, published an Opinion on lameness in sheep:

http://www.fawc.org.uk/pdf/sheep-lameness-opinion-110328.pdf

which includes the most up to date recommendations on the management of lameness in sheep, including specific conditions such as foot rot. We intend to raise the control and prevention of lameness to farmers through ADAS awareness workshops later this year.

The Welfare of sheep is protected by the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). It is enforced by both the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency and local authorities.

DEFRA's Code of Recommendations for livestock: Sheep contains specific guidance regarding the management of lameness, including the consideration to cull sheep promptly if they have chronic lameness which has failed to respond to appropriate treatment.

Animal Welfare: Gun Sports

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of *(a)* pheasants and *(b)* partridges which have been produced for sport shooting in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [70653]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold annual statistics of such birds, but figures produced by the Farm Animal Welfare Council in 2008 estimated that there are 30 million to 35 million pheasants and 5 million to 10 million partridges released each year in Great Britain for sport shooting.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to ban the farming of birds for sport shooting; and if she will make a statement. [70656]

Mr Paice: The Government have no current plans to ban the farming of birds for sport shooting.

Gamebirds reared for sporting purposes continue to be protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal as well as failing to provide for the welfare needs of an animal under the control of man. In addition, DEFRA introduced a code of practice for the welfare of gamebirds reared for sporting purposes, which was made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which provides gamebird rearers with guidance on how to meet the welfare needs of their birds.

Animal Welfare: Slaughter Houses

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to improve animal welfare standards in abattoirs. [70167]

Mr Paice: We are committed to the maintenance of high standards of welfare at slaughter and do not condone any form of cruelty.

The Government are currently working through implementation of regulation 1099/2009, which comes into effect on 1 January 2013. This will include a review of the procedures food business operators will need to have in place, including the use of CCTV, to meet the new monitoring requirements introduced by the regulation.

The regulation also introduces new requirements in relation to operator competence and the need for all slaughterhouses (above a minimum size) to have a dedicated animal welfare officer and we are working with the Sector Skills Council for the sector to develop accredited training packages and associated assessment procedures aimed at slaughterhouse staff. We are also considering what, if any, retraining existing slaughterhouse staff will be required to undertake before being given a certificate of competence under the new regulation. We have recently commenced a period of informal discussion with key stakeholder interests in advance of a formal consultation on the legislative changes that will take place in early 2012.

New penalties, sanctions and enforcement arrangements will also be required to underpin the new regulatory framework. Here we are considering extending the current criminal sanctions to include the use of improvement and stop notices to ensure immediate action is taken where welfare breaches are detected. We will also be reviewing the way we assess welfare risks to ensure enforcement and official veterinarian resources are targeted at those businesses or production systems judged to be the highest risk of welfare non compliance.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to increase the number of prosecutions in cases of causing unnecessary suffering and injury to animals at slaughterhouses; and if she will make a statement. [70654]

Mr Paice: Official veterinarians (OVs) of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) monitor and enforce the rules set out in the regulations on a daily basis in all licensed slaughterhouses (approved premises). The Government will not hesitate to take action against anyone failing to comply with the law and OVs will take immediate action to put right any problems they may find. This may include verbal or written advice or warnings and, when necessary, a referral for prosecution. If OVs see animals arriving at a slaughterhouse which show evidence of welfare problems arising on farm or during transport, they will report the incident to the appropriate enforcement body, which will take the necessary follow-up action.

On 1 September 2011, as announced in Parliament on 12 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 11WS, the prosecution function and prosecution team in DEFRA transferred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Following this change, the decision on whether to prosecute cases under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 investigated by the FSA, will be taken by the CPS and any prosecution will be conducted by the CPS.

The Government encourage the highest standards of animal welfare at slaughter. The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995, as amended, govern animal welfare at slaughter. The regulations are designed specifically to prevent cruelty or poor practice in slaughterhouses or other places such as farms, where animals are slaughtered or may have to be killed. They also set down specific requirements which must be complied with at all stages of the slaughter or killing process. The regulations make it an offence to cause any animal avoidable excitement, pain or suffering at any time between its arrival at a slaughterhouse and when it is killed.

Animals: Electric Training Equipment

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on the use of *(a)* containment fences and *(b)* other electronic training aids for animals. [70108]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has received a variety of correspondence from a range of interested parties on the broad issue of electronic training aids, and in some cases these refer to containment fences.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had any discussions with her EU counterparts on the implementation of the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Programme for England. [70228]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has not had the opportunity to discuss the Bovine TB Eradication Programme for England with EU Commissioners or her counterparts in other member states since its publication on 19 July. She met with Commissioner Dalli on 14 March to discuss bovine TB more generally and in particular the development and use of a cattle vaccine.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which body will be responsible for supervising, regulating and monitoring the licensing scheme for the badger culling scheme; what financial resources she plans to provide to such an oversight body; under what guidelines it will operate; and whether there will be a charge for licences. [70640]

Mr Paice: Natural England will assess applications, grant and monitor compliance with licences in line with the same principles as it applies to enforcing other wildlife licences. We are working with Natural England to determine the scope and scale of this operation and its associated costs, which would be met by DEFRA. We are currently consulting on draft guidance to Natural England, which sets out in detail how Natural England would exercise its function to issue licences.

In addition to Natural England monitoring compliance with licence conditions, DEFRA will also commission additional impartial monitoring as described in the consultation document.

At this stage, we do not envisage charging applicants for badger control licences.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the licensing scheme for badger culling will require participants to have similar team sizes and training as the teams of staff used in culling areas during the Random Badger Culling Trial. [70642]

Mr Paice: Applicants would be required to meet the criteria set out in the draft Guidance to Natural England on which we are currently consulting. As part of this, applicants would be required to satisfy Natural England that they are able to deliver an effective cull in line with the proposed policy and have arrangements in place to achieve this. This may not be the same as the manpower deployed in the Randomised Badger Culling Trial as during the RBCT only cage-trapping and shooting was used, and culling was carried out over smaller areas of 100 km^2.

As described in the consultation document, operators would be required to undertake badger-specific training to cover anatomical and behavioural characteristics of badgers and how these differ from those of other species, and demonstrate appropriate marksmanship competence.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations her Department has received expressing opposition to a cull of badgers; and if she will make a statement. [70652]

Mr Paice: A public consultation on a badger control policy was carried out at the end of 2010, the results of which are available at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-control-measures/bovinetb-summary-responses-110719.pdf

We also receive correspondence from organisations and members of the public both expressing their opposition to and support for badger culling.

Common Agricultural Policy

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding the UK will contribute to the Common Agricultural Policy in 2011-12. [70230]

Mr Paice: The UK contributes to the EU Budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it and there is not, therefore, a specific UK contribution to Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) expenditure. The UK's share of financing the 2011 EU Budget is currently estimated to be 12.48%, after taking account of the UK abatement. Spending, in Heading 2 (mostly CAP) of the EU Budget in 2011 is currently estimated at €56.379 billion. Agreement has not yet been reached on the 2012 EU Budget.

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on reform of the common agricultural policy. [70231]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), and I are in regular discussion with EU colleagues over the reform of the CAP, both in the margins of formal and informal meetings of the EU Agriculture Council and in targeted bilaterals. I recently met with Swedish and Danish counterparts, and will shortly be welcoming the Polish Agriculture Minister to London.

We are committed to working constructively with all EU partners to progress genuine and farsighted reform of the CAP. In a smaller overall budget, future CAP expenditure should tackle the key objectives of encouraging a competitive, sustainable EU agriculture sector able to rise to future challenges and opportunities, including feeding a global population and responding to climate change.

Dogs: Tagging

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representation she has received from local authorities on compulsory microchipping of dogs. [69693]

Mr Paice: 16 local authorities responded to the consultation last year on dangerous dogs legislation, all of which commented on compulsory microchipping of dogs.

Fines

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* fines and *(b)* other penalties her Department has received from the European Commission as a result of having breached an EU directive in the last five years. [70054]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA (or any other UK Government Department) has never received a fine or any other penalty as a result of having breached an EU directive.

However, as a result primarily of late payments and perceived weaknesses in controls related to the administration by the Rural Payment Agency and other UK paying agencies of common agriculture policy schemes in the UK, a total of around £388 million has been disallowed (ie EU funding of scheme payments has been withheld) over the last five years from 1 September 2006.

Fisheries

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with their EU counterparts on reform of the common fisheries policy. [70226]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister I regularly meet my EU counterparts to discuss common fisheries policy (CFP) reform. The most recent meeting was the EU Fisheries Council on 19 July 2011.

My officials also meet their counterparts in other member states regularly to discuss reform of the CFP. Recent meetings include meetings of EU Directors-General for Fisheries as well as bi-laterals with individual EU member states.

Now that the EU Commission's proposals for reform of the CFP have been published the UK Government will continue to engage with our EU colleagues and others in pressing for genuinely radical reform.

Forests

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made by the working party on the future of public-owned forests. [70227]

Mr Paice: We understand that the Independent Panel on Forestry continues to make good progress. Its public call for views closed on 31 July, to which it had more than 40,000 submissions. Panel members have also begun their programme of visits, enabling them to build up a thorough picture of the vast array of interests and uses of England's forests and woodlands to inform its work. We look forward to reading the panel's progress report, which is due in November, and its findings and advice when it finally reports next year. Latest news about the work of the panel is available on its website.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* transaction date, *(b)* transaction amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by the Rural Payments Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and which of these transactions attracted level three or enhanced transaction entry. [70834]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency is unable to provide the information prior to March 2010. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. None of the transactions attracted level three or enhanced transaction entry.

Livestock: Transport

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 721W, on transport: livestock, on how many occasions the vessel identified in the answer has used the port of Ramsgate to transport live farm animals during the last seven months; and if she will make a statement. [70417]

Mr Paice: In the last seven months, there have been 13 sailings of the vessel identified transporting live farm animals from Ramsgate port.

Meat

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effect on human health of consumption of meat from animals raised by healthier methods. [70975]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has not had any recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), on this issue.

Pet Travel Scheme: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to prevent *(a)* echinococcus multilocularis and *(b)* other non-endemic parasites which pose a threat to public health from entering the UK when the revised Pet Travel Scheme comes into force on 1 January 2012. [70306]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* On tapeworm controls (Echinococcus Multilocularis), following representations made by the UK, the European Commission has come forward with a proposal that would enable us to retain tapeworm controls (applying the treatment one to five days before travel). We have decided that the evidence doesn't justify taxpayer funded maintenance of tick controls (although pet owners could choose to do so if they wish as part of wider animal welfare considerations) and we are working with veterinary and welfare organisations to ensure that those travelling with their pets are provided with the necessary advice.

Other non-endemic parasites posing a serious threat to public health (e.g. Leishmaniasis) are transmitted by insect vectors such as some species of sandfly which are not established in the UK. As such, there is negligible risk of the disease becoming established in the UK and there is no evidence to suggest we should introduce controls now.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office on ensuring that liquid egg is produced from enriched battery cages in the EU from 2012. [70215]

Mr Paice: No direct discussions have been held with the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) as it deals with checking compliance with legislation that has already been implemented. We continue to press the EU Commission to act and act quickly to bring in additional enforcement measures to protect UK complaint producers. Simply relying on FVO Missions and infraction proceedings against non-compliant member states will not be enough to deal with the commercially negative impact that any non-compliance would cause.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Egg Marketing Inspectorate plans to take to trace and report on the origin of imported eggs from enriched battery cages within the EU that do not comply with the provisions of EU directive 1999/74/EC from 2012; [70218]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with the Egg Marketing Inspectorate on the resources available to it for the purposes of monitoring the incidence of non-compliant eggs from enriched battery cages in the EU from 2012; [70219]

(3) what role the Egg Marketing Inspectorate will play in ensuring adherence to changes in cages for laying hens from 1 January 2012. [70246]

Mr Paice: The EMI has been absorbed into the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), which is now responsible for enforcement and checking compliance with EU (welfare and egg marketing) legislation. AHVLA is carrying out inspections of all laying hen premises in the UK to determine producers' plans for 2012 and the level of conversion to date. We are working with officials in the AHVLA in developing a UK enforcement strategy.

AHVLA, through its egg marketing inspectors, enforce and checks compliance with EU egg marketing legislation in England and Wales. Eggs from other member states are subject of free trade agreements and therefore cannot be specifically targeted but checks are made on imported eggs as part of AHVLA's normal compliance inspection regime. AHLVA is responsible for checking imports of shell eggs from third countries. This is done at the point of entry.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with representatives of Trading Standards on steps to ensure that egg in liquid form is scrutinised by Trading Standards officers following the phasing out of the keeping of laying hens in conventional cages. [70245]

Mr Paice: Representatives of Trading Standards are assisting us with drawing up a UK enforcement strategy to cover UK egg production and imports from other member states. We will also be discussing our strategy with the industry and retailers.

Regional Veterinary Laboratory

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the Regional Veterinary Laboratory at Thirsk. [70888]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) has carried out a review of its laboratory services work, how it is organised and where it is located. The review looked at how we can achieve the best value for money, while maintaining high standards of quality and safety in service provision. In coming up with its recommendations, the review considered the scientific, technical and logistical aspects of reorganising lab services.

AHVLA is in the process of obtaining approval for them from DEFRA. AHVLA intends to retain laboratory services workgroups at eight sites compared to 14 at present. The proposal recommended that laboratory service work at Thirsk will cease by the end of March 2012. Work from Thirsk would be transferred to the eight continuing workgroups.

These changes do not imply or rely on site closures to generate savings. Just because a site will no longer carry out lab testing, it does not mean that it is at risk of closure. AHVLA is planning a complete review of estates post merger and will identify which sites are the best ones for it to use for service delivery in the future. AHVLA will make an announcement on this at the end of October.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* laboratory tests and *(b)* post mortems are carried out (i) per week and (ii) annually in (A) the Thirsk Regional Veterinary Laboratory and (B) the Newcastle Regional Veterinary Laboratory. [70889]

Mr Paice: Post-mortem examinations at the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency's (AHVLA) regional veterinary laboratories are usually conducted at the request of a private veterinary surgeon. He or she may choose to submit one or more carcass from an incident of disease on a holding. It is not unusual for several poultry carcasses to be submitted, while for cattle, single carcasses are typical.

For the period from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011, 141 carcasses were submitted to the Newcastle Regional Veterinary Laboratory. This is an average weekly throughput of approximately three carcasses. In the same period, 963 carcasses were submitted to the Thirsk Regional Veterinary Laboratory. This is an average weekly throughput of approximately 18 carcasses.

For the period from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011, 176,913 tests were conducted by the Newcastle Regional Veterinary Laboratory, an average of 3,402 per week. For the same period, 18,359 tests were conducted by the Thirsk Regional Veterinary Laboratory, an average of 353 per week.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* vets, *(b)* general laboratory staff and *(c)* trained bacteriology staff currently work at (i) the Thirsk Regional Veterinary Laboratory and (ii) the Newcastle Regional Veterinary Laboratory. [70890]

Mr Paice: There is currently one vet based in the Newcastle Regional Veterinary Laboratory. There are currently six vets based in the Thirsk Regional Veterinary Laboratory.

There were 24 lab staff in post on 1 September 2011 at Newcastle, of whom 22 are full-time and two are part-time. Of these, seven are trained bacteriology staff.

There were 14 lab staff in post on 1 September 2011 at Thirsk, of whom eight are full-time (one of whom is on fixed term appointment which ends on 6 December 2011) and six are part-time. Of these, eight are trained bacteriology staff.

Waste Disposal

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her decision to allow local authorities to undertake commercial waste collections free of VAT includes subcontractual work in which private waste disposal companies work on behalf of local authorities. [71065]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The issue is not one of competition law, but instead one of VAT law. As such, this was an operational matter and the decision was made by HMRC officials in response to a legal challenge against the taxation of local authority commercial waste collection services. Because of this, it was not possible to consult more widely.

The Environmental Services Association have made representations to HMRC and there is ongoing dialogue about the VAT treatment of commercial waste collection.

Water White Paper

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date the Water White Paper will be published. [70992]

Richard Benyon: The Water White Paper will be published by December 2011.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Chapel of St Mary Undercroft

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, which postholder authorises access to the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft in the Palace of Westminster; and what the criteria are for access to the Chapel for hon. Members accompanied by guests. [71029]

John Thurso: The postholder who authorises access to the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft is Black Rod in the House of Lords on behalf of the Lord Great Chamberlain, in conjunction with the Dean of Westminster.

The criteria for access to the Chapel are as follows:

As the Chapel is primarily a place of worship, services, rehearsals and other authorised events should not be disrupted by visitors. Similarly individuals who use the chapel for private prayer and contemplation should not be unduly disturbed by tours.

The number of visitors in a group should be consistent with the number of visitors (up to a maximum of six) who a Member, or full grey, red or green staff pass-holder, of either House may conduct on a private tour within the Palace of Westminster.

The size and number of visiting groups should be regulated in accordance with safety considerations to take account of the narrow access, layout of the chapel and lack of emergency exits (when the Chapel is not being used for an event).

Electric Vehicles

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what recent progress the House of Commons Commission has made in installing charging points for electric or hybrid cars. [71046]

John Thurso: The situation remains as it was in the answer to the right hon. Member for Warley (Mr Spellar), of 2 February 2011, *Official Report,* column 783W, when the Commission confirmed the installation of two charging points. The House authorities will continue to keep this under review.

Parliament: Police

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, which postholder is responsible for setting criteria for the selection of police officers on duty in the Palace of Westminster. [71028]

John Thurso: Police officers are employees of the Metropolitan Police Service; the chief superintendent is responsible for setting the criteria for the selection of police officers on duty in the Palace of Westminster.

Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the House of Commons Commission paid to each contractor contracted to provide services to the House in *(a)* 2001-02, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2010-11. [69745]

John Thurso: The House's financial systems are designed primarily to record the cost of particular services, activities and projects, rather than how these are delivered, and separately identifying payments to each of the House's many contractors for three financial years would involve disproportionate cost. We are introducing improvements to the system next year which will enable us to prepare more detailed reports in future and analyse costs in different ways, and we are planning to publish information on payments to suppliers over £25,000 later this year.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 2W, on pay, how many full-time equivalent information and communications technology staff were employed by the House of Commons service immediately prior to the creation of the Parliamentary Information and Communications Technology department (PICT); how many are now employed by PICT; and how many of these were paid more in salaries, overtime and performance awards than a Back-Bench hon. Member in the latest year for which figures are available. [69746]

John Thurso: Prior to the creation of Parliamentary ICT (PICT) as a department of the House of Commons Service in January 2006 (in preparation for formal constitution as a joint department), parliamentary ICT services, and related management and administrative functions, were provided in a variety of ways across the departments and offices of both Houses, including by staff employed by the House of Commons to provide services to both Houses (for instance, the Parliamentary Communications Directorate and the Information Architecture Strategy Unit) and a number of programmes.

In January 2006, the shadow PICT department inherited responsibility for 161 permanent staff (including some part-timers and staff seconded from the House of Lords), and 48 vacant posts, making a total requirement of 209. Vacancies were initially filled by contractors.

As set out on PICT's 2010-11 annual report, 221 staff were employed by the department in core roles. In addition, there were 104 staff employed specifically on Parliament's portfolio of business-led programmes and projects. In both instances these numbers include staff in a range of management, administrative and other roles as well as those with technical qualifications and responsibilities. The majority of programme appointments are on a fixed term basis.

The salary of an hon. Member in 2010-11 was £65,738. Six PICT staff were paid more than this figure in 2010-11.

The House of Commons shares the core funding of PICT with the House of Lords on an 80/20 basis.

Roads

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission which postholder was responsible for the authorisation of works in Bridge street, Westminster; what the timetable is for completion; and what the expected cost to the public purse is of the works. [71026]

John Thurso: The works in Bridge street are part of a project to provide improved security around the Northern Estate. It is being implemented by Westminster city council with funding by both Houses of Parliament. The project was endorsed by the Joint Committee on Security, and follows similar work elsewhere in Whitehall. Business case approval was given by officials in accordance with established procedures. The cost for the whole project was capped at £5.7 million, and the current forecast is within this limit. Works in Bridge street are due to be completed by the end of this year; however, the contractor is examining ways to finish sooner than this.

Decisions on the authorisations of works are made under delegations given by the House of Commons Commission, and in line with criteria set by Member committees where appropriate. It is not the Commission's practice to publish names of individual staff who took particular decisions.

PRIME MINISTER

Libya

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral statement of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, on Libya (1) how long he expects the lessons learned exercise in respect of the Libyan intervention led by Sir Peter Ricketts to take; and when he expects it to report; [71055]

(2) what the scope is expected to be of the lessons learned exercise in respect of the Libyan intervention led by Sir Peter Ricketts; and whether it will include an analysis of the adequacy of military equipment; [71058]

(3) when he expects the lessons learned exercise in respect of the Libyan intervention led by Sir Peter Ricketts to begin; and how much he expects the exercise to cost. [71061]

The Prime Minister: As announced in the House on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 28-29, the National Security Adviser is leading a study into the lessons learnt about how the new central co-ordination mechanisms around the National Security Council have operated during the Libya crisis. The length of time it takes will obviously depend on when the military operations end. Costs are expected to be met from within existing departmental resources. The House will be informed of the conclusions from the National Security Adviser's study.

EDUCATION

Advisory Centre for Education: Finance

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has provided to the Advisory Centre for Education in each of the last three years; and what plans he has to fund the centre in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* future years. [69186]

Sarah Teather: From 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011, the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) received the following funding from the Department:

	£
2008-09	861,142.83
2009-10	610,144.80
2010-11	502,094.00

In 2011-12, the Department has extended the grant to ACE and allocated £219,843 over April to September 2011.

ACE took part in a competitive procurement exercise to award new contracts for online and telephone family support services. Unfortunately, ACE's bid was not as strong as others and the Department was not able to award a contract to it. Nearly 40 organisations submitted expressions of interest for contracts to operate family support services and these were predominantly from charities. We are not able to fund all the organisations that submitted bids.

The Advisory Centre for Education will be able to apply for any future grants and contracts opportunities that are advertised by the Department if it feels it meets the relevant criteria.

Children in Care

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many care placements have been terminated by local authorities for those aged 16 in each of the last five years; and what the duration of their final placement was up to the date of its termination in each such case. [68227]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of children aged 16 years who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010 and the duration of their final placement is shown in the following table.

Children aged 16 years who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by duration of final placement[1, 2, 3], years ending 31 March 2006-10, coverage: England

					Number
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All children who ceased to be looked after aged 16	2,290	2,160	2,080	1,920	1,900
Duration of final placement					
Under 2 weeks	330	320	300	340	310
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	380	380	390	330	390
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	620	550	550	510	490
From 6 months to under 1 year	410	400	350	330	330

Children aged 16 years who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by duration of final placement[1, 2, 3]*, years ending 31 March 2006-10, coverage: England*

Number

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
From 1 year to under 2 years	340	320	300	240	230
From 2 years to under 3 years	110	90	90	80	80
From 3 years to under 5 years	60	60	60	50	30
From 5 years to under 10 years	40	40	40	30	30
10 years and over	10	[4]—	10	10	10

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
[4] Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.
Source:
SSDA 903

Children: Autism

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what training school staff receive on identifying signs of autism; and what requirements there are on such staff to work with local NHS services to refer children for assessment and diagnosis; [69642]

(2) whether the scholarship scheme for teachers and support staff will include scholarships on autism; and whether he plans to establish incentives for teachers and teaching assistants to undertake scholarships. [69713]

Sarah Teather: Decisions about in-service training for school staff are matters for schools, taken in light of the training needs of the schools. The Department has previously provided in-service training materials on autism and is currently funding the Autism Education Trust to develop a competency framework for staff working with children with autism and to provide training for some 5,000 staff.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) has provided units on autism within a comprehensive training pack for the providers of initial teacher training and induction. These are freely available. The TDA is currently developing materials for advanced-level continuous professional development, including materials on autism. The special educational needs (SEN) and disability Green Paper made a commitment to help local networks of schools to develop teachers with specialist skills and knowledge, including specialist autism skills, who can be deployed across local clusters of schools.

The SEN Code of Practice, which schools must take into account when they are providing for children with SEN, advises schools, with the informed consent of and involvement of the child's parents, to consult the school health service or the child's general practitioner about whether a medical condition may be contributing to the child's difficulties in school.

The National Scholarship Fund for Teachers is seeking applications from serving teachers by 30 September. We anticipate that around half of the estimated 600 scholarships in the first round will be awarded for qualifications in special educational needs, which could include studies in autism. In the Green Paper we announced that we would be launching an additional fund, open to the most able teaching assistants and other support staff, to enable them to build on their special educational needs support roles and develop their careers further. We will be working with the Training and Development Agency for Schools on the development of such scholarships.

Children: Daycare

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in funding allocated by central Government on the provision of summer holiday child care activities in Coventry; [70807]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that local authorities fulfil their obligations under the Childcare Act 2006 in respect of holiday child care; and if he will make a statement; [70808]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the adequacy of provision of child care places for *(a)* disabled children and *(b)* children over 12 years of age in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [70666]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* Local authorities have a duty (under section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006) to ensure that there is sufficient child care locally to meet the needs of working parents and particularly families with disabled children. We want to improve the way in which local authorities keep parents informed about what they are doing to deliver this duty. The Government announced in the "Families in the Foundation Years" statement, published in July 2011, the intention to bring forward proposals that local authorities should report annually on their section 6 sufficiency duty, and in particular how they are supporting families of children with disabilities to access child care, available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/early

Local authorities have told us that the requirement (under section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006) to publish nationally prescribed sufficiency assessments every three years is burdensome. The Government consider that a local annual report would be a more effective way of enabling parents to hold their local authority to account. The Government have therefore also decided to consult on bringing forward legislation to repeal the section 11 duty. This consultation will be published on the Department for Education's website later in the autumn.

Although there is no specific funding allocated to local authorities for the provision of holiday child care, there is enough flexibility in the early intervention grant for local authorities to fund these requirements, if they consider there is sufficient demand.

Children's Centres

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of Sure Start children's centres provided full-time child care places in April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011. [70251]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education collects data on how many Sure Start Children's Centres provide full day care provision on site through the annual Childcare and Early Years Provider survey. The survey does not assess how many children's centres provide full day care at a separate site in partnership with a nearby child care provider. Data from the 2008 and 2009 surveys show:

	Number of Sure Start Children's Centres providing full day care provision on site[1]	*Proportion of children's centres providing full day care provision on site*[2] *(percentage)*
2008	1,000	35
2009	1,000	35

[1] These figures are rounded to the nearest 100. The data are estimates; they are weighted and grossed up to the total number of active providers in England to ensure the figures are representative of providers throughout England. These grossed up figures are not exact and are subject to margins of error.

[2] Percentages are rounded up to nearest whole number. The number of children's centres between the 2008 and 2009 surveys remained unchanged at around 2,900 centres. Therefore, the proportion of children's centres offering full day care remained stable.

The 2010 Childcare and Early Years Provider survey will be published on 28 September 2011.

Children's Centres: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he allocated to Sure Start children's centres in the London borough of Tower Hamlets in each year since 2005-06. [68680]

Sarah Teather: The funding allocated to the London borough of Tower Hamlets, as part of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant, for Sure Start Children's Centres from 2005-06 to 2010-11 is shown in Table 1. From April 2011, funding for Sure Start Children's Centres is included within the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) and is set out in Table 2.

The EIG is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities greater flexibility to target resources strategically and to intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It is up to local authorities to judge how best to use this funding for their local communities, taking account of local need and evidence of what is most effective.

Table 1: Children's Centres and Sure Start local programmes allocations for London borough of Tower Hamlets

£

	Children's centres revenue	*Children's centres capital*	*SSLP revenue*	*Total*
2004-06[1]	1,443,554	4,516,134	10,546,287	16,505,975
2006-07[2]	3,145,772	1,639,667	5,165,883	9,951,322
2007-08[2]	3,173,775	3,254,853	4,391,349	10,819,977
2008-09	6,094,142	352,515	4,411,051	10,857,708
2009-10	7,886,930	723,330	3,745,484	12,355,744
2010-11	8,833,202	458,852	3,343,488	12,635,542

[1] Local authorities received a two year allocation for 2004-06.

[2] The 2006-07 and 2007-08 capital allocations are for the wider Main Capital Block. The Block included funding for child care sustainability and extended schools as well as for Children's Centres in 2006-07 and 2007-08. From 2008-09 the block comprised funding for Children's Centres, early years provision, child care and integrated projects (those which support more than one policy objective).

Table 2: Early Intervention Grant for London borough of Tower Hamlets

£

	Early Intervention Grant	*Total*
2011-12	20,870,367	20,870,367

Drugs: Misuse

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the compliance of drug addiction treatment for young people in secure estate and care homes with NHS guidelines. [69644]

Sarah Teather: The national specification for substance misuse available via

http://yjbpublications.justice.gov.uk/Scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=443&eP

sets out the guidelines for young people in the secure estate. Compliance with the national specification was monitored by the Youth Justice Board up until March 2011 as part of their broader performance management arrangements. Responsibility for substance misuse services within the secure estate has now transferred to the Department for Health.

Looked after children placed in children's homes should have access to the full range of support for drug and alcohol misuse provided by the local young people's substance misuse services.

Young people's specialist substance misuse services are monitored through the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). In 2009-10, 4% of young people accessing specialist drug and alcohol services were identified as looked after children. Information on performance, including speed of access to services, and successful completions is published annually by the NTA.

Health Services

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the same weight and accountability criteria are to apply to the *(a)* health and social care and *(b)* education elements of the proposed educational, health and care plan. [69569]

Sarah Teather: The reforms I have proposed to the special educational needs system in England include the proposal to introduce a new single education, health and care plan. The plan will be clear about who is responsible for which services, and will include a commitment from all parties across education, health and social care to provide their services.

The reforms will be tested by pathfinder areas. Local authorities, in close partnership with their local PCT clusters, have been invited to apply for pathfinder status. Pathfinders have been asked to test ways to ensure accountability across education, health and social care.

Pre-school Education

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to increase the power of local authorities to provide tailored and flexible pre-school services to reflect local needs. [69411]

Sarah Teather: Through the Early Intervention Grant (EIG), local authorities have the freedom and flexibility to target resources strategically and to intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The EIG enables the provision of pre-school services, such as children's centres, to be tailored to best meet the needs of local communities, taking account of evidence of what is most effective. The free entitlement for three and four-year-olds gives parents the offer of 15 hours of free early education for their child, which can be used flexibly.

Special Educational Needs

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to ensure all pupils with special educational needs who require specialist support have access to such support; and what plans he has for the funding of such support. [69841]

Sarah Teather: Schools and local authorities have duties to identify children with special educational needs (SEN) and arrange the provision a child's learning difficulties call for, including specialist provision where that is necessary to meet needs.

In February, the Department wrote to all local authorities in England saying that there would be no recoupment of funds for SEN support services for the 2011-12 financial year as a consequence of the increasing number of schools converting to academy status. Arrangements for future years are the subject of the wider review of school and academy funding.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of changes proposed by the EU to flight time limitations. [71001]

Mrs Villiers: The European Aviation Safety Agency consulted on draft implementing rules on flight time limitations earlier this year. The Civil Aviation Authority considers that the proposed requirements have many positive aspects but it has indentified three issues which need to be addressed before we could accept the proposals. We have made these points in our response to the consultation. EASA is in the process of reviewing the responses to consultation and will be issuing an amended proposal in due course.

Bus Services

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of passengers and *(b)* percentage change in bus usage in (i) York and (ii) England in the last five years. [71503]

Norman Baker: The latest information on bus statistics in Great Britain can be found on the Department website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/buses/

The charts found at the following addresses indicate number of passenger journeys in England and in York over the past five years:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/bus0108

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/bus0109

These indicate that the number of bus passenger journeys increased by 2% in York and by 13% in England (including London) between 2005-06 and 2009-10, the latest year for which we have annual statistics.

Bus Services: Theft

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to work with coach operators to reduce the level of theft on coaches. [70663]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* Incidents of theft on coaches are a matter for the coach company and an operational matter for the relevant police force concerned. Any compensation arrangements in place for loss or damage to luggage during a journey are a matter for the coach operator.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by his Department as of March 2011. [70922]

Norman Baker: When carrying out an appraisal of a project or policy, the Green Book sets out options that should be adjusted for material differences in tax. Differences in tax receipts between PFI and conventionally funded projects are considered as part of HM Treasury's Value for Money model which is run by the Department for each PFI project at the appraisal stage. The output of the model is one source of information that is used to inform the overall value for money assessment of the project.

For those projects in procurement in March 2011 the percentage by which the public sector comparator is uplifted to reflect the additional tax take that accrues to the Government from the private finance option is given as follows:

	Percentage
Cambridgeshire Street Lighting	4
Croydon and Lewisham Street Lighting	4

	Percentage
Knowsley Street Lighting	6
Northamptonshire Street Lighting	4
Oldham Street Lighting	4
Rochdale Street Lighting	4
Hounslow Highway Maintenance	4
Isle of Wight Highway Maintenance	6
Sheffield Highway Maintenance	6
Nottingham Express Transit Extension	8

These figures are for outline business cases at the pre-market appraisal stage and therefore are not used to assess tax takes from specific PFI providers after contracts have been signed.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Department as of 1 July 2011. [69517]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not currently collect data on people undertaking paid or unpaid work experience. However, as part of the civil service wide 'Get Britain Working' programme, the Department has made a pledge to offer 1,000 work placements over the coming year. These will take place across all agencies and the central Department. Each placement will be two weeks in length and will be offered to jobseeker's allowance customers aged 18 to 24. Eligible individuals will be those whose limited experience of work is acting as a barrier to employment. Although these placements will be unpaid in terms of departmental funds, candidates will still be in receipt of their benefits while in post. Any additional travel required as part of the candidate's placement (e.g. to and from the Business Skills Workshops) will be organised and paid for by the Department.

Driving: Offences

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to make it a driving offence for a motorist to interrupt the line of vehicles included in a funeral cortege; and if he will make a statement. [70273]

Mike Penning: We have no current plans for a new specific driving offence related to the interruption of a line of vehicles within a funeral cortege.

Existing offences, for example related to careless and inconsiderate driving, are relevant to so-called 'road rage' and other aggressive driving in the vicinity of funeral corteges. An additional specific offence would be unlikely to assist penalising the worst examples of poor driving behaviour.

We are progressing plans to enable the police to enforce against careless and inconsiderate driving more efficiently.

Driving: Standards

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will confirm the level of funding from the public purse for the 2011 Smarter Driving Programme. [68617]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport will provide up to £420,000 of funding in 2011-12 for this programme. Government funding will be matched by broadly equivalent funding paid by the businesses taking part in the programme.

East Coast Railway Line: Standards

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what delays to passenger rail services on the East Coast Main Line have been recorded in each of the last six months. [68967]

Norman Baker: For the whole of East Coast, delay minutes and public performance measure (PPM) for the past six rail periods requested were attributed as follows:

2011

Rail periods	*East Coast delay minutes (period)*	*East Coast delay minutes (moving annual average)*	*East Coast PPM (period) (percentage)*	*East Coast PPM (MAA) (percentage)*
March	23,619	28,261	85.7	83.3
April	26,536	28,391	86.6	83.3
May	23,379	28,567	86.1	83.1
May/June	25,034	28,980	88.5	83.2
June/July	37,952	29,993	81.9	83.0
July/August	24,587	30,122	89.2	83.3

Great Western Railway

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he plans to introduce new rolling stock on the Great Western mainline west of Plymouth in the next four years; [70235]

(2) when he expects to announce whether the proposed fleet of future Intercity Express trains will terminate at Exeter or serve Cornwall. [70237]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to a less prescriptive approach to the specification of rail franchises, with decisions such as rolling stock provision devolved primarily to franchise operators.

The current Great Western franchise will terminate in April 2013, and as part of the specification of the new franchise, we will consult on the level of services the new franchise should offer. This is likely to include opportunities for franchise bidders to deploy new trains.

Network Rail

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the McNulty Rail Value for Money study of May 2011, whether he plans to retain the existing Ticketing and Settlement Agreement. [71188]

Mrs Villiers: The Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA) is a rail industry agreement overseen by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). It would be for ATOC to propose any changes to the agreement for the Secretary of State's approval.

ATOC has indicated that it is considering bringing forward significant changes to the agreement. The Government will consider any such proposals carefully, bearing in mind all relevant matters including the recommendations of the rail value for money study.

Government are currently considering the recommendations of the rail value for money study, but no decisions have yet been taken.

Railways

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration has been given to providing funding for a railway line to link Reading with Norwich and Ipswich via Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge. [71176]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has indicated to the promoters of the scheme that funding for reinstating the railway line between Bicester and Bletchley will be considered during the development of the High Level Output Specification which is due to be published in July 2012. The Specification will set out rail investment requirements for the period between 2014 and 2019. The scheme has the potential to link Reading with Bedford and Milton Keynes via Oxford.

Rescue Services

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the number of jobs sponsored by his Department in an area was among the original criteria used to identify the best location for retention of maritime rescue co-ordination centres as part of the coastguard reform process. [70711]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency published a location matrix and impact assessment setting out the rationale for the proposed choice of sub-centres to support the consultation document published on 16 December. This can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/8.location_impact_assessment_and_sub-centre_rationale_v3.pdf

This assessment identified a range of practical factors around collocation of other activities, security of tenure and reinstatement costs if a site were vacated that provided a basis for choices between locations.

Further investigation of the factors surrounding Milford Haven and Swansea revealed that, contrary to the original assessment, the reinstatement obligations at Swansea do not provide the strong financial grounds for retaining this site rather than Milford Haven. There are also no other practical or operational reasons to favour either location. In these circumstances, we have also taken into account the Department for Transport's substantial wider presence in Swansea with both the DVLA and our Shared Services Centre located there and we have concluded that it is more appropriate to retain the coastguard centre and coastguard jobs at Milford Haven.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department made of the effects on the *(a)* rolling stock leasing and *(b)* rolling stock maintenance market in the awarding of a preferred bidder for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [R] [68718]

Mrs Villiers: The Thameslink rolling stock invitation to tender evaluation criteria and process for the selection of a preferred bidder did not include provisions relating to an assessment of the effects the selection of a preferred bidder would have on the rolling stock leasing and rolling stock maintenance markets.

However, when developing the invitation to tender structure the Department and its advisers considered the options for the financing and maintenance of the new Thameslink rolling stock.

The Department considered that the scale of the total capital funding requirement, circa £2 billion, was beyond the capacity of the existing UK rolling stock leasing organisations, i.e. the ROSCOs. Consequently the Department included requirements for financing which, while including the ROSCOs as a potential source of funds, allowed a wider funding group to participate in the Thameslink competition. Ultimately this may lead to a more competitive train leasing market in the UK through the introduction of new funders.

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the existing *(a)* managerial and supervisory and *(b)* technical train maintenance staff employed by First Capital Connect he expects to be transferred to Siemens under the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [68849]

Mrs Villiers: Assuming a successful conclusions of contractual negotiations, it will be responsibility of the Thameslink train operator and Siemens to ensure that there are sufficient staff to enable the new and existing trains to be maintained and operated safely at all times.

Siemens will be required to co-operate with the Thameslink train operator during the period of new train introduction to achieve a managed transition of maintenance responsibility during this period.

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 718W, on Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, what the reasons were for the time taken between his endorsement of the recommendation and the announcement of the preferred bidder for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [69198]

Mrs Villiers: It is standard practice for a number of internal processes to be worked through before an announcement is made. This was a significant announcement that other Government Departments needed to be fully aware of before it was announced. Given the significance of this announcement it clearly would not have been appropriate to make it during the parliamentary Whitsun recess, which added further to the delay.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria he considered pertinent when allocating funding to *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Oxfordshire and *(c)* Buckinghamshire for extending broadband to rural areas. [71177]

Mr Vaizey: The criteria used to determine the funding allocations for Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire were the same criteria used in the assessment of all other allocations. An explanatory note outlining the criteria used is available on the Broadband Delivery UK pages of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/BDUK-Data-Model-Expalantory-Notes.pdf

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of all private finance initiative projects in procurement by his Department as of March 2011. [70921]

John Penrose: This Department has no private finance initiative projects of its own, and therefore no tax receipts to be estimated.

Gambling

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to enforce the Government's proposals for changes to remote gambling laws following their implementation. [71121]

John Penrose: The proposed reforms will mean operators based overseas who wish to sell into the British market will require a Gambling Commission licence.

We are currently working with the Commission and other stakeholders on the detailed arrangements of the new regime and we expect to retain enforcement powers equivalent to those already in place under the Gambling Act 2005.

Sports

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of how the Department might contribute in the future development of the sport of indoor bowls. [70977]

Hugh Robertson: No formal assessment has been made by this Department. However, its arm's length body Sport England currently funds the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) to increase participation in indoor bowls for the over 65s and to improve satisfaction levels throughout the sport. They also run two initiatives to introduce people to the sport and offer four weeks of free coaching to new participants: Have Mat Will Travel and Bowls4Free.

Tourism: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much he allocated for tourism promotion in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996-97. [71471]

John Penrose: Yorkshire Forward has been the regional development agency (RDA) responsible for supporting tourism in Yorkshire and the Humber. Prior to 2003, the Yorkshire Tourist Board held this responsibility and figures held by region are not available centrally.

Yorkshire Forward has indicated that the following amounts were allocated for supporting tourism in the region from 2003 (obtained from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills):

	£ million
2003-04	0.6
2004-05	1.7
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	3.9
2007-08	6.0
2008-09	8.0
2009-10	8.0
2010-11	7.0

VisitBritain and VisitEngland have additionally marketed Britain overseas and England within the UK and to selected overseas markets. This investment is not apportioned on a regional or area-specific basis and it is not possible to disaggregate a specific Yorkshire and Humber spend, but the area is an important asset in our overall offer and receives significant coverage in national marketing campaigns.

The hon. Member may wish to write to the chief executive of Yorkshire Forward to inquire if the regional development agency holds records for the period prior to 2003.

UK Film Council

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which films received funding from the UK Film Council in the last five years; how much funding was awarded in each case; under what terms funding was provided in each case; and in what circumstances the UK Film Council did not require that funding to be repaid. [70318]

Mr Vaizey: All films that received funding from the UK Film Council (UKFC) over the past five years—and the amount of funding each film received—are published in the annual report and accounts, all of which have been formally laid in Parliament, and can be found using the link:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/scripts/semaphore/official_documents/semaphoreserver.exe?SAVEDB=OPSI-Official_Documents&STYPE=simple&Method=simple&CMD=search.run&ORGANISE_CODED=%3A&B-TPDF&QUERY00=UKFC

or by visiting the UKFC website:

http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/publications?page=1&step=10&viewby=category&value=17010

The general terms and conditions of this funding were published on the UKFC website as part of the guidelines. The specific terms under which individual films were funded are subject to commercial confidentiality as there were other funders and financiers involved. The funding for feature film development and production was provided as a recoupable grant and there were no circumstances in which the UKFC waived the right to be repaid.

The terms and conditions for the Film Fund can now be found on the BFI website at:

http://www.bfi.org.uk/about/funding/downloads/BFI-Film-Fund-Terms.pdf

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business Committee

Mr Bone: To ask the Leader of the House when he expects to establish a House Business Committee. [71117]

Sir George Young: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave during oral questions on 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 546. As set out in the coalition agreement, the Government are committed to establishing a House Business Committee in 2013.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by his Department as of March 2011. [70924]

Robert Neill: The Department itself has no private finance initiative projects in procurement.

However the Department does sponsor a number of housing, fire and joint service centre private finance initiative projects that are being procured by local authorities and fire and resilience authorities.

Details of tax payable estimates for sponsored private finance initiative projects will be contained in project specific documents held by individual local authorities and fire and resilience authorities and which are submitted to the Department at key procurement stages. This information is not currently collated or held on a database though by the Department.

At 31 March 2011 there were 12 housing, two fire and three joint service centre private finance initiative projects in procurement.

Empty Property: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has estimated the number of empty homes in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency. [70803]

Grant Shapps: According to council tax data as at 4 October 2010 there were *(a)* 8,246 empty homes in Berkshire, of which 3,182 were classed as long-term empty; and *(b)* 1,929 empty homes in Reading, of which 610 were classed as long-term empty. Homes classed as long-term empty are those dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over six months. Figures are not available on a constituency basis.

Figures on empty homes by local authority district are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in live table 615 at the following link:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

We have put in place powerful tools and incentives to support local communities to tackle empty homes. Through the New Homes Bonus, communities will receive a direct financial reward for bringing an empty home back into use. We are also investing £100 million through the Affordable Home Programme to tackle empty homes directly.

Enterprise Zones

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used to assess bids in the Round 2 bidding process for local enterprise zones. [71202]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The Government assessed how bids for enterprise zones would best deliver local growth and jobs. As set out in the guidance published on 27 May, the assessment of bids focused on three criteria: the extent to which the bid would deliver growth; the value for the money of the bid; and if the plans for delivery were robust.

Housing: Graduates

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of UK graduates who have purchased a home in the last 15 years. [70434]

Grant Shapps: In England, there are an estimated 1.8 million home owners out of the 3.5 million people who have graduated in the last 15 years.

Source:

English Housing Survey, 2009-10

Local Government: Expenditure

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to ensure that local councils abide by his Department's guidelines for redacting figures when publishing expenditure of £500 or more. [71090]

Robert Neill: The Department has not produced guidelines for councils on redacting figures when publishing expenditure of £500 or more. Following public consultation earlier this year, the Department will shortly publish a Code of Recommended Practice, setting out the principles and minimum standards that authorities should follow when publishing data. Local authorities must not release data if that would contravene the Data Protection Act 1998 or section 100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. Additional guidelines produced by the sector can be viewed at this link:

http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on support for families affected by the murder of a British national abroad. [70101]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials have had discussions with officials at the Ministry of Justice to ensure that we can provide the best possible support for families bereaved by a murder abroad. The FCO is also represented on the Homicide Service Implementation Group, which oversees the work of the Victim Support National Homicide Service.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Council of Europe, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* other Governments on the services and support available to families of British nationals murdered overseas. [70129]

Alistair Burt: The UK has opted in to the proposed EU directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and is participating in the negotiations on the directive. We welcome the proposed directive, which will benefit UK citizens who are victims in other EU member states. They will be afforded minimum rights, support and protection to a level similar to that they would receive as a victim of crime in the UK. The directive will allow UK citizens to move throughout the EU with confidence that should they fall victim to crime in any member state, their rights will be respected when participating in criminal proceedings and they will be able to access a minimum level of support across the EU.

Diplomatic Service: Internet

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the use of UK embassy websites to campaign on issues within their host nations. [70177]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a network of over 250 embassy websites with content in over 40 languages. Their purpose is to showcase and support the work of British embassies abroad, share key information with the public, and to play a role in the delivery of FCO and posts' objectives, including policy goals. Their audiences range from British citizens abroad to visitors wishing to travel to the UK, to opinion formers and influencers in their host countries.

India

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Indian counterpart on the situation of the Adivasi peoples in central India. [71078]

Alistair Burt: We have not discussed the situation of the Adivasi with the Indian Government. However, we regularly discuss human rights issues, including minority rights, with the Indian Government both bilaterally and through the EU-India human rights dialogue. In addition, our high commission in Delhi also has regular meetings with the National Commission for Minorities and Indian Minorities Minister Salman Khursheed.

Iraq: Kurds

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on military incursions by Turkey and Iran into the Kurdistan region of Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [70760]

Alistair Burt: We received reports of Turkish airstrikes and artillery barrages in August targeting the terrorist group PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), and in July of Iranian shelling and an incursion to attack PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan) bases. The Kurdistan Regional Government has appealed for a cessation to all hostilities and for the PKK as well as the PJAK to lay down their weapons.

We take attacks across borders seriously and pay close attention to the circumstances in which they occur. We call for co-operation with the Governments of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region over the threat in the border areas, and have expressed our concern about indiscriminate Iranian shelling.

Libya

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of allegations of abuses perpetrated by the forces of *(a)* the former Government of Libya and *(b)* the Transitional National Council; and if he will make a statement. [70832]

Alistair Burt: The Government have made clear that all those committing human rights abuses and atrocities in Libya must be brought to justice. The UK led the drive for referral of the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court in UN Security Council Resolution 1970 and called for a special session of the Human Rights Council which set up the Commission of Inquiry into Libya. The Commission reported systematic abuse of civilians, including evidence of excessive use of force, a pattern of enforced disappearances, and deliberate destruction and attacks on medical transports and facilities by Gaddafi forces. These are clear demonstrations of the former Gaddafi regime's disregard for international law.

The UN Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry first report in June 2011 also found that there were some instances of human right abuses levelled against the then opposition fighters, although it concluded that these were not part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians.

Since then, the National Transitional Council (NTC) has continued to voice its commitment to international humanitarian and human rights law, and has stated its intent to fully implement the Commission's report recommendations. Articles 7 & 8 of the Draft Constitutional Declaration clearly outline the NTC's plan to join international and regional declarations and charters that protect human rights and basic freedoms. The NTC has also taken action. It produced and reissued a frontline manual instructing Libyan civilians on the fundamental rules that must be adhered to in conflict and has conducted an investigation into reports of mistreatment of prisoners. We welcome this emphasis and its commitment, and will continue to raise these issues it them.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the firing of mortars and Qassam rockets into southern Israel from Gaza on 4 July 2011; and if he will make a statement. [R] [70999]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Tel Aviv monitors rocket attacks on Israel closely. As we have consistently made clear, all such attacks should stop. Our understanding is that the situation was quiet on the Gaza-Israel border on 4 July 2011 and no rockets were fired into Israel that day.

More recently, from 18-21 August, we witnessed once again an alarming escalation in violence. I issued a statement making clear our concerns about the violence in Gaza and southern Israel. Nine Israelis were killed and many more were injured. In Gaza, at least 15 people were reported killed, including three children. We strongly condemned this appalling violence. The announcement of a ceasefire is welcome.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News &id=645743582

We have urged that everything is done to avoid further civilian casualties. It is vital that all sides show restraint and seek to reduce tensions.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent reports he has received of *(a)* meetings of and *(b)* statements by the Arab League on responses to terrorism by Israel; and if he will make a statement; [R] [71019]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Arab League on statements by that organisation condemning Arab terrorism in Israel; and if he will make a statement; [R] [71239]

(3) what recent reports he has received of occasions when members of the Arab League have *(a)* met to discuss and *(b)* issued statements to condemn terrorist incidents (i) in Israel committed by Hamas and (ii) in Israel and the West Bank committed by (A) Arab organisations and (B) Hezbollah. [R] [71240]

Alistair Burt: UK Ministers and officials are in regular contact with the Arab League, an organisation key to UK objectives in the region. We discuss a range of issues of mutual concern, especially the middle east Peace Process and wider Israeli/Palestinian concerns. Most recently, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Cairo met the Secretary General of the Arab League on 8 September.

The UK's position on all terrorist attacks is that they should be condemned unreservedly. This is especially important as efforts for peace in the region continue and all parties should be doing everything they can to prevent violence and coming together to negotiate.

Representations on meetings and statements of the Arab League may best be made to the Arab League themselves. The head of the office in London is Dr Adel Babesail, who can be contacted at:

press@arableague.org.uk

Nguyen Van Ly

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Government of Vietnam for the early release of Father Nguyen Van Ly. [70139]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government are concerned about the Vietnamese authorities' decision to return Father Ly to prison on 25 July and we are continuing to monitor his case closely. We fully endorse the EU High Representative's statement of 29 July 2011 on Father Ly's re-imprisonment. Father Ly is included on the local EU list of persons and detainees of concern which we share regularly with the Vietnamese authorities to seek information about the welfare of the detainees and to request their immediate release.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Vietnam to release Father Nguyen Van Ly from prison. [70140]

Alistair Burt: The EU engages regularly with the Vietnamese authorities on a list of persons and detainees of concern, seeking information about the welfare of the detainees and requesting their immediate release. The list, which includes Father Ly, was raised most recently with the Vietnamese authorities on 24 August. The UK Government remain concerned about the Vietnamese authorities' decision to return Father Ly to prison on 25 July and we are continuing to monitor his case closely. We fully endorse the EU High Representative's statement of 29 July 2011 on Father Ly's re-imprisonment.

Palestinian State (Oslo Accords)

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account he has taken of the Oslo interim agreement in developing his policy on the proposed UN resolution on a Palestinian state. [70738]

Alistair Burt: The UK's policy is that the best way to resolve this long standing conflict is through a negotiated two-state solution. Our approach is to encourage the parties to agree a lasting settlement, including through implementation of the Oslo Accords.

Failure to return to negotiations now puts at risk the long term prospects for a solution and, in the short term, may provoke difficult choices in the UN. Neither Israel nor the Palestinians can afford to let the opportunity for peace slip further from their grasp.

Along with our European Union partners, we are working to build consensus on a way forward that recognises the progress the Palestinians have made on their state-building efforts, that meets Israel's legitimate security concerns, and that avoids confrontation in the UN. Whatever action is taken in New York, it is important that this increases the prospects for a return to negotiations.

Libya

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political and security situation in Libya. [70864]

Alistair Burt: The Government have welcomed the National Transitional Council's (NTC) Constitutional Declaration. The NTC has shown its commitment to a more open and democratic Libya and is working to achieve this through an inclusive political process. The formation of an interim government in Tripoli is expected soon. As the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) said on 5 September 2011, the Libyan people can be proud of what they have achieved. They now have the opportunity to decide their own future.

The NTC has also articulated its stabilisation plan. The UK will be at the forefront of international efforts to assist Libyans in planning and implementation of this plan. We support the role of the UN in co-ordinating international assistance to the new Libyan authorities.

The overall security situation is improving with all but a few population centres free of Gaddafi forces. Pressure continues to increase on the remnants of his forces in Sirte, Bani Walid and Sabha, and NATO is continuing to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973.

Somalia: Famine

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Kenya on the use of refugee facilities for victims of the famine in Somalia. [69080]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

During my visit to Kenya in July, I pressed the Kenyan Prime Minister and Minister for Provincial Administration and Internal Security Affairs over the need to allocate more camp space for refugees fleeing Somalia. The Ifo II and Kambioos camps in Dadaab have since been opened.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition of myalgic encephalopathy his Department uses; and how it categorises the condition. [71238]

Chris Grayling: DWP guidance defines chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis as:

> "an illness that is characterised by physical and mental fatigue and fatigability."

Guidance does not formally categorise the condition but states that:

> "it is important to ensure full consideration is given to all the disabling effects of the illness."

Employment

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of recent trends in part-time working; what estimate he has made of the number of part-time employees in the quarter to June 2011; what estimate he has made of the number of such employees who are seeking a full-time job; what assessment he has made of the effects of recent trends in part-time working on the economy; and if he will make a statement; [70034]

(2) what assessment he has made of recent trends in temporary employment; what estimate he has made of the number of people working as temporary employees in the quarter to June 2011; what estimate he has made of the number of such employees who are seeking a permanent job; what assessment he has made of the effects of recent trends in the number of temporary employees on the economy; and if he will make a statement. [70035]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

(i) what assessment he has made of recent trends in part-time working; what estimate he has made of the number of part-time employees in the quarter to June 2011; what estimate he has made of the number of such employees who are seeking a full-time job; what assessment he has made of the effects of recent trends in part-time working on the economy (70034); and

(ii) what assessment he has made of recent trends in temporary employment; what estimate he has made of the number of people working as temporary employees in the quarter to June 2011; what estimate he has made of the number of such employees who are seeking a permanent job; what assessment he has made of the effects of recent trends in the number of temporary employees on the economy (70035);

For the period April-June 2011 there were an estimated 6.678 million employees in the UK working part-time (seasonally adjusted). On a non-seasonally adjusted basis there were 6.681 million part-time employees, of which 1.097 million reported that they had taken part-time employment because they had not been able to find a full-time job.

For the same period there were an estimated 1.608 million people working as temporary employees, of which 0.601 million reported that they had taken a temporary job because they had not been able to find a permanent job (both figures seasonally adjusted).

The ONS does not publish estimates of trends in these statistics. Nor does it assess the effects of temporary and part-time working on the economy. However, time series for the statistics requested are published among the tables associated with the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

Enterprise Clubs

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many enterprise clubs have been set up in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* Kent. [71386]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not publish statistics on enterprise clubs as they are a locally driven initiative that will evolve over time, and their support can be accessed without referral from Jobcentre Plus.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage claimants of jobseeker's allowance to become self-employed. [71388]

Chris Grayling: The new enterprise allowance (NEA) provides help to unemployed people to start their own business. It is available to people who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more. It provides access to business mentoring and offers financial support.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants who participate in the new enterprise allowance work with a volunteer business mentor who will provide them with guidance and support as they develop their business idea, and through the early stages of trading. To be eligible to receive the financial support, the claimant has to demonstrate that their business idea is viable and has growth potential. The financial support consists of a weekly allowance payable over 26 weeks worth up to £1,274—allowing them to establish their business and cash flow—and if they need start-up capital they may also apply for an unsecured loan of up to £1,000 to help them with start-up costs such as buying their initial equipment.

The new enterprise allowance is now available throughout Great Britain.

We are also supporting the development of local enterprise clubs, helping people make the most of local knowledge and resources to support unemployed people in their communities who are interested in becoming self-employed. Enterprise clubs provide unemployed people interested in self-employment with a place to meet and exchange skills, make contacts, share experiences, receive support and encourage each other to work through their business ideas. Jobcentre Plus advisers signpost claimants interested in self-employment to their local enterprise club where one is available.

Welfare to Work

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what welfare-to-work organisations operating in Reading West constituency have a contract with his Department. [71182]

Chris Grayling: Action for Employment and Maximus hold Work programme contracts in Reading. In addition, Action for Employment has a Jobcentre Plus support contract and Shaw Trust holds a Work Choice contract.

Work Capability Assessment

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Work Capability Assessments have been initiated in East Hampshire constituency to date. [70759]

Chris Grayling: The following table presents data for employment and support allowance (ESA) claims in East Hampshire local authority area starting between October 2008 to November 2010 (the latest data available). The table shows the outcomes at initial and repeat work capability assessments. Note that claims closed before the assessment was complete have been included for completeness as the claim may have been closed after the work capability assessment was initiated.

ESA claims starting in East Hampshire

Number

	Support group	*Work-related activity group*	*Fit for work*	*Claim closed before assessment complete*	*Assessment still in progress*	*All claims*
Initial assessments	110	230	380	510	10	1,250
Repeat assessments	30	110	50	40	30	250
Total	140	340	440	550	40	1,500

Notes:

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment at the national level. The latest report, published in July 2011, covers new claimants to ESA for October 2008 to November 2010 (the latest data available) and can be found here:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare.
3. These figures do not include incapacity benefit reassessment claims.
4. A small number of clerical assessments, where the result cannot be determined from DWP benefits data, are excluded from these figures.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve supply chain mechanisms to deliver resources to military personnel serving in Afghanistan. [70649]

Peter Luff: As recognised by the Committee of Public Accounts Forty-Third report of Session 2010-12, the chain by which military operations, such as those in Afghanistan, are supplied with essential equipment and supplies would be much more efficient if directed by a modern information system supported by appropriate skills and procedures. A comprehensive programme is under way to replace the current ageing and obsolete logistics information systems with new capabilities including the Future Logistics Information Services project (which will replace the base inventory systems), the Management of the Joint Deployed Inventory (MJDI) system (for deployed assets) and the Joint Asset Management Engineering Solution (JAMES) (to improve the management of land equipment).

MJDI and JAMES are currently being rolled out. These will contribute to improved materiel accounting and early increments of MJDI are already in service within some units within Afghanistan, with the programme due to deliver the full MJDI and JAMES capabilities in 2014.

In addition, the new single tri-service base inventory and warehousing system, to replace the individual systems used in all three services, will also be delivered incrementally. This will see a major step change in the support chain and materiel accounting, with a rationalised modern base inventory and warehouse service with easier reconciliation with the Ministry of Defence's finance systems.

Armed Forces

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the need for an officer of high rank to *(a)* oversee and organise the return of troops from Germany and *(b)* lead the new Multi-Role Brigade. [70191]

Nick Harvey: It has been agreed that the senior military officer who will oversee the return of troops from Germany will be the Commander-in-Chief Land Forces. He will be supported by the chief executive of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, who is responsible for the preparation of the UK defence estate in advance of the troops returning, and the return of the estate that the Army currently occupies in Germany to the German federal authorities.

There are no plans to change the manner in which operational brigades are commanded; the multi-role brigades will be commanded by brigadiers selected in line with current Army policy.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of service is for an infantry soldier who enlists *(a)* aged 18 or above and *(b)* below the age of 18. [70672]

Mr Robathan: The average length of service on exit for trained infantry soldiers who left during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 July 2011 was 8.7 years.

For those who joined under the age of 18 it was 10 years and for those who joined aged 18 or over it was 7.6 years.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel in *(a)* trained and *(b)* untrained strength are not deployable due to their age. [70673]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 July 2011, there were 150 trained service personnel who were not fully deployable as they were under the age of 18. There were 1,940 untrained service personnel under the age of 18.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies his Department has undertaken into the cost of recruiting, training and paying 16 year old soldiers for up to two years before they can be deployed since the commencement of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [70675]

Mr Robathan: None.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures are in place to assist resettlement of early service leavers who enlisted below the age of 18. [70678]

Mr Robathan: Resettlement assistance is offered to all early service leavers, regardless of their age. This includes a briefing at unit level on all the services and organisations that are in a position to help them in their transition to civilian life and guidance on accessing the services available through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to which, as ex-service personnel, they have early access. DWP services include an interview by trained consultants, access to online job search facilities, practical guidance on creating and updating CVs, identifying transferrable skills and training opportunities, professional help in completing job applications and development of interview skills with the aid of expert staff. Advice is also given on housing issues, pensions and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

From November 2011, we are enhancing the resettlement package for all early service leavers, regardless of their age, through trialling best practice industry solutions. The aim of the trials is to improve employment outcomes for those who leave early through the offer of a more personalised and sophisticated level of resettlement. Under these trials we also aim to offer greater support for any who leave early and are vulnerable to social exclusion, again, regardless of their age.

Personnel who leave early as a result of being medically discharged are entitled to the most comprehensive resettlement package through the Career Transition Partnership. This consists of a range of transition services and concessions in time, money and training opportunities.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many early service leavers left the armed forces in the last 12 months; how many of those were aged 21 or younger; and how many enlisted below the age of 18. [70679]

Mr Robathan: In the financial year 2010-11, 6,130 personnel left the armed forces with less than four years' service, of which 3,740 were aged under 21. Of the 6,130, 2,180 were aged under 18 when they enlisted. The figures comprise UK regular forces, both trained and untrained, and are rounded to the nearest 10.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which personnel use Craigiehall housing stock; [70185]

(2) which bodies own the housing stock associated with the Craigiehall base in Edinburgh; [70186]

(3) what plans he has for the future of housing stock at Craigiehall. [70207]

Mr Robathan: There are 78 service family accommodation (SFA) properties at Craigiehall that are owned by the Ministry of Defence. The exact future requirement for SFA in the Edinburgh area is under review, however, it is expected that all current housing stock will continue to be required to accommodate entitled service personnel and their families.

As at 5 September 2011, SFA at Craigiehall was used to accommodate entitled personnel from the following units: 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, 105 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers), 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment Royal Logistics Corps, Headquarters 2nd Division, 22 Military Intelligence Company, 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), 45 Commando Royal Marines, 6th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland (Volunteers), 603 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force, Armed Forces Careers Office, Defence Equipment and Support, Headquarters 51 (Scottish) Brigade, Headquarters International Security Assistance Force, Royal Air Force Leuchars, Scottish Transport Regiment Royal Logistics Corps (Volunteers) and Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff Personnel.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* families and *(b)* children are living in army accommodation at (i) Craigiehall, (ii) Redford and (iii) Dreghorn. [70201]

Mr Robathan: Service family accommodation (SFA) is a tri-service asset and properties are not allocated to individual barracks or units. As at 5 September 2011, records show there were 648 families with 929 children under the age of 18 living in SFA in the Edinburgh area.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many single accommodation places there are for *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks at (i) Redford Barracks, (ii) Dreghorn Barracks and (iii) Craigiehall; [70277]

(2) how many and what proportion of units of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service family accommodation at each grade there are at (i) Redford Barracks, (ii) Dreghorn Barracks and (iii) Craigiehall. [70279]

Mr Robathan: The number of single living accommodation bedspaces together with standard for condition (SfC) at Redford Barracks, Dreghorn Barracks and Craigiehall is shown in the following table:

Establishment	*Rank*	*SfC 1*	*SfC 2*	*SfC 3*	*SfC 4*	*Total*
Redford Barracks	Officer	—	13	48	—	61
	Other ranks	—	44	160	197	401
	Redford total	—	57	208	197	462
Dreghorn Barracks	Officer	—	16	25	9	50
	Other ranks	—	—	135	242	377
	Dreghorn total	—	16	160	251	427
Craigiehall	Officer	—	—	—	47	47
	Other ranks	—	—	—	24	24
	Craigiehall total	—	—	—	71	71
Overall total		0	73	368	519	960

Service family accommodation (SFA) is a tri-service asset and properties are not allocated to individual barracks or units. There are some 757 SFA across Edinburgh of which 738 are at SfC 1 and 19 are at SfC 2.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on accommodation in the last 10 years for *(a)* Redford Barracks, *(b)* Dreghorn Barracks and *(c)* Craigiehall. [70280]

Mr Robathan: The amount spent on single living accommodation in Redford Barracks, Dreghorn Barracks, and Craigiehall is shown in the following table:

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Dreghorn	0.13	0.24	0.15	0.14	0.19	0.25	0.26	0.27

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
Craigiehall	0.05	0.16	0.23	0.13	0.05	0.06	0.09	0.13
Redford	0.16	0.50	0.60	1.34	0.56	0.78	0.55	0.98

Service family accommodation (SFA) is managed on a tri-service basis and is not broken down by individual sites. The amount spent on SFA in Edinburgh is shown in the following table:

	£ million
2003-04	0.51
2004-05	1.36
2005-06	2.75
2006-07	3.81
2007-08	3.03
2008-09	2.95
2009-10	1.90
2010-11	2.10

Data prior to 2003 are not held.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Air Force and *(b)* Royal Navy personnel undertaking pilot training were informed of (i) redundancy and (ii) termination of their place on their course; at what stage of their training they were so informed; and how many such personnel have been assigned to other duties. [70046]

Mr Robathan: In March this year, 170 RAF student pilots left the flying training pipeline during the initial phase of flying training, which is undertaken prior to learning to fly specific operational aircraft. Of those:

seven student pilots have secured career moves to ground-based branches;

161 have been notified they will be made redundant; and

two are leaving the RAF for different reasons.

Redundancy notifications for personnel in the Royal Navy will be issued on 30 September 2011. It would not be appropriate to announce how many of those are pilots prior to the announcement.

Combat Capability Directorate

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) where the headquarters for the *(a)* Combat Capability Directorate, *(b)* Combat Support Capability Directorate, *(c)* Information Capability Directorate and *(d)* Combat Service Support Capability Directorate will be located; [70841]

(2) how many *(a)* service and *(b)* civilian personnel will be assigned to (i) Combat Capability Directorate, (ii) Combat Support Capability Directorate and (iii) the Information Capability Directorate; [70842]

(3) which regiments will be *(a)* amalgamated and *(b)* disbanded as a result of the creation of the Combat Capability Directorate. [70844]

Nick Harvey: The Army is planning to restructure eight of its arms and service directorates into four capability directorates by the end of 2012. Detailed planning is under way but the location of the directorates and the numbers of service and civilian personnel to be assigned to them has yet to be determined.

No regiments will be amalgamated or disbanded as a result of the creation of the combat capability directorate.

Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on redundancy payments for armed forces personnel since May 2010. [71056]

Mr Robathan: Nothing.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects simultaneously to maintain an *(a)* Amphibious and *(b)* Airborne Small Scale Contingency Battle Group. [70860]

Nick Harvey: A contingent Amphibious Commando Group and Airborne Task Force, at battle group level, will be maintained simultaneously from financial year 2012.

Military Bases

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether planning permission was obtained for the previously planned modernisation of Craigiehall as a divisional headquarters. [70208]

Mr Robathan: Planning permission was granted by Edinburgh city council for an office building to replace the Annandale block at Craigiehall. However, it was decided to delay commencement of work until the requirement for a replacement was further developed and resources allowed.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated values are of the sites of United Kingdom Land Command at *(a)* Redford Barracks, *(b)* Dreghorn Barracks and *(c)* Craigiehall. [70276]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not routinely assess the current market value of all its estate because the estimated receipts will depend on market conditions and other factors at the time of sale. Where pre-sale valuations have been obtained, these are withheld as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were for *(a)* Redford Barracks, *(b)* Dreghorn Barracks and *(c)* Second Division headquarters at Craigiehall in each of the last five years. [70281]

Mr Robathan: The maintenance costs for Redford Barracks, Dreghorn Barracks and Craigiehall in each of the last five years are shown in the following table:

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Redford Barracks	3.1	1.4	2.5	2.0	3.0
Dreghorn Barracks	0.7	1.4	2.2	1.1	1.4
Craigiehall	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4

Military Bases: Kirknewton

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian jobs will be lost with the closure of *(a)* Craigiehall, *(b)* Redford and *(c)* Dreghorn barracks; whether these jobs will be moved to the proposed new base at Kirknewton; and whether any such jobs which are moved to Kirknewton will be filled by army personnel. [70192]

Mr Robathan: The number of civilian posts which will be affected by the closure of Craigiehall, Redford and Dreghorn Barracks is shown in the following table:

Location	*Number of civilian posts*[1]
Craigiehall (HQ 2nd Division)	150
Craigiehall (Other units)	80
Redford Barracks	63
Dreghorn Barracks	21

[1] Some posts are currently vacant

The future of the civilian posts based in Headquarters (HQ) 2nd Division at Craigiehall, will be considered as part of the process to create a single HQ Support Command based in Aldershot.

The other units affected by the site closures at Craigiehall, Redford and Dreghorn Barracks will, as appropriate, be accommodated at other locations. This remains subject to further detailed planning work on the timing and sequencing of Army moves and it is too early to confirm where these units will be located or what the impact will be on specific civilian jobs.

There is no intention to fill any civilian posts moving to Kirknewton with Army personnel.

Navy

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had on steps to equalise pay and conditions between Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Royal Navy personnel. [70335]

Mr Robathan: The well established Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) conditions of service are based on civil service and RFA specific policy, reflecting the distinct role of the RFA service, the status of the personnel as Ministry of Defence civilians, and the tasks required of them in meeting Defence requirements. There have therefore been no negotiations regarding the equalisation of pay and conditions between the RFA and Royal Navy personnel.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Transport

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to assist with the development of transport links that would encourage tourism in each of the overseas territories that receive assistance from his Department. [70885]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development in partnership with overseas territory Governments pursues every opportunity to encourage tourism that represents value for money for the UK taxpayer and that will lead to economic development, reduced dependence, and ultimately, greater self-sufficiency for the territory.

For example, DFID has been willing to finance an airport for St Helena subject to the conditions set out in Secretary of State for International Development's written statement of 22 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 46-47WS. For Montserrat, we are at the early stages of considering an investment with the EU in an upgraded port at Little Bay. DFID also currently subsidises sea access to St Helena, Montserrat and Pitcairn to ensure that islanders and tourists can travel to these islands in a safe, predictable and affordable manner.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what changes have been made to the mechanisms for tracking aid following the recommendations made in the report of the Development Assistance Group Ethiopia on Aid Management and Utilisation in Ethiopia. [70680]

Mr O'Brien: The Development Assistance Group (DAG) report on Aid Management and Utilisation in Ethiopia was published in August 2010. Since publication, the Department for International Development (DFID) and other international agencies have been working with the Government of Ethiopia to implement the recommendations made in the report. Two examples of specific progress include the design of an independent grievance mechanism for the Protection of Basic Services programme and improvements to the systems that identify who should be included in emergency nutrition programmes.

DFID continues to play a leading role in these efforts. But we would like to see swifter progress. Prompted by DFID, the DAG has this month advertised for a full-time adviser to co-ordinate and accelerate the strengthening of systems and safeguards in donor-supported programmes in Ethiopia. One early task for the adviser will include a comprehensive assessment of progress made in implementing the recommendations of the DAG report.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the recommendation for a second phase of work in the report of the Development Assistance Group Ethiopia on Aid Management and Utilisation in Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [70681]

Mr O'Brien: The Development Assistance Group (DAG) study on Aid Management and Utilisation in Ethiopia concluded with a report published in August 2010. Since publication, the Department for International Development (DFID) and other international agencies have been working with the Government of Ethiopia to strengthen the systems and safeguards in the programmes covered by the report. This important ongoing work is being taken forward in routine, programme-specific dialogue. It is core business for DAG members, not a 'second phase' of work.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department *(a)* has provided and *(b)* plans to provide to the Government of Ethiopia for its policy of villagisation. [70682]

Mr O'Brien: In February 2011, the Government of Ethiopia approached the international community for support for its villagisation programme (now officially known as the Commune Programme).

The Department for International Development (DFID), in collaboration with other international agencies, then developed a set of guidelines and principles for transparent and fair villagisation/resettlement processes in Ethiopia. These were discussed with and accepted by the Government of Ethiopia. DFID has also provided the Government with examples of good practice relating to resettlement and villagisation processes.

While we do not plan to provide financial support to the Commune Programme, we are discussing with the Government of Ethiopia, relevant regional authorities and international partners how we can best support accelerated development in the four developing regions of Ethiopia, which include those regions where the Commune Programme is being implemented.

Ethiopia: Resettlement

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent assessment led by his Department of the villagisation process in the Gambella region of Ethiopia. [70684]

Mr O'Brien: In February 2011, officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) in Ethiopia participated in a multi-agency assessment of villagisation (now officially known as the Commune Programme) in the Gambella region of Ethiopia. The findings were captured in a report, which was shared with the Government of Ethiopia.

The decision to share the report requires agreement by all agencies involved in the mission. DFID Ethiopia is seeking approval to release the report from the agencies involved.

Horn of Africa: Droughts

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the amounts donated by other donors to alleviate the drought crisis in the horn of Africa; what estimate he has made of total donations by 30 September 2011; what estimate he has made of outstanding financial requirements; and what steps he is taking to attract greater donations. [70774]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United Nations (UN) maintains a website, accessible at:

http://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx

which has details of donor contributions to the horn of Africa. Currently the UK is the second largest humanitarian donor to region behind the United States. Since 1 July, the UK has committed £124.29 million. During the third week of September, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) will sit in New York. I anticipate that UN member states will pledge funds to the Horn relief effort at UNGA. This makes it difficult to gauge what the overall donor response will be come 30 September.

According to the UN, regional financial shortfalls across the Horn are $918 million as of 9 September. The UK is committed to encouraging other countries to support relief operations and lobbying others remains a key component of the UK's response. On this issue, over the summer, I have spoken many times to development ministers from other countries, international agencies, such as UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and NGOs, as have the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. The UK will maintain the pressure on other donors to support life-saving humanitarian activities in the horn of Africa.

Libya: Politics and Government

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what support he plans to give to the National Transitional Council to help strengthen state institutions in Libya; [70547]

(2) what support he plans to give to the National Transitional Council to counter any threat of violent extremism in Libya; [70546]

(3) what support he plans to give to the National Transitional Council to pursue sustainable economic development in Libya; [70545]

(4) what support he plans to give to the National Transitional Council for the reconstruction and development of local infrastructure in Libya; [70544]

(5) what support he plans to give to the National Transitional Council to make progress towards democratic reform in Libya; [70543]

(6) what support he plans to give to the National Transitional Council to promote the development of free and independent media in Libya. [70542]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The transition in Libya must be Libyan led and Libyan owned, supported by the international community. We will continue to support the Libyan people, through the leadership of the National Transitional Council, in stabilising their country. We are discussing with the National Transitional Council what their needs are: the UK's role in meeting these will be determined in conjunction with other international partners, under the co-ordination of the United Nations.

Strong support by the UK on all aspects of stabilisation has been given to the NTC over recent months.

North Africa: Transport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on plans for the Lamu-Southern Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor. [70151]

Mr O'Brien: DFID is supporting transport corridor development in east and southern Africa as part of the UK's Africa Free Trade initiative. This includes support to the Tripartite (COMESA-EAC-SADC) through the TradeMark programmes in east and southern Africa. The Tripartite will showcase two potential projects along the Lamu corridor which will be presented to private sector investors and financiers at a conference in Nairobi on 28-29 September 2011.

The projects, which are being developed by the Government of Kenya as part of its "Vision 2030", aim to improve access by road to the port of Lamu and support the construction of three berths. The UK is not planning to finance these projects. As with all projects, the UK recommends that the Government of Kenya conduct a full environmental and social impact assessment and achieves transparency and value for money in procurement.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with officials of the Sudanese Government on the provision of aid for Sudan. [70908]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In June this year I met Sudanese Foreign Minister Karti; we discussed how UK aid was being used in Sudan, and the responsibilities of the Government of Sudan in the development of their country. I also discussed these issues with a number of Sudanese Ministers during my visit to Sudan in May. DFID does not route any funding directly through the Government of Sudan. We currently provide most of our funding through large multi-donor pooled funds managed by UN agencies. DFID officials in Khartoum work with the relevant ministries within the Government of Sudan to help them identify and address the development needs of the country. On my visit in May, I also discussed UK aid with ministers from the then Government of Southern Sudan, including President Kiir, now President of the independent Republic of South Sudan.

The British Government are providing £50 million a year for the next four years to help the people of Sudan.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Sudan. [70880]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We are greatly concerned at the humanitarian situation in Sudan. This is particularly acute in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile State where recent conflict has broken out and where humanitarian access is very limited. There are also significant ongoing humanitarian needs in Abyei and Darfur. We are working closely with the UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations to press for greater access to those that need help the most and for the protection of civilians.

In 2011, the UK has provided £40 million to the UN managed Common Humanitarian Fund which channels funds through UN agencies and non-governmental organisations, of which around 60% will be spent in Sudan in response to needs on the ground. We expect this to help deliver the following results, among others:

Emergency shelter and non-food items to 2.4 million people

Life-saving health and nutritional support to 6 million people

Safe water and sanitation to 3 million people

Food security and livelihoods support to 5.4 million people.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Numbers

17. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the change in the number of police officers has been in England and Wales since May 2010. [70942]

Nick Herbert: Police personnel data are collected on a financial year cycle. Published statistics show that there were 139,110 full-time equivalent police officers in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011. This compares with 143,734 as at 31 March 2010.

22. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effect of changes in the number of police officers on the level of crime. [70949]

Nick Herbert: As the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), reminded the House during the last round of oral questions, the Home Affairs Select Committee said in February:

> "We accept that there is no simple relationship between numbers of police officers and levels of crime."

The Government agree.

Sex Offenders

20. **Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted for sexual crimes will no longer be barred from working with children following implementation of her legislative proposals. [70946]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are scaling back the proposed vetting and barring scheme to common-sense levels by reducing the scope of regulated activity and limiting barring to those who work in, have worked in or will work in regulated activity. Child protection remains paramount and the most serious offences will still lead to automatic barring. It is not possible to make the estimate requested, as not all sexual offences will result in barring either now or in the revised scheme.

JUSTICE

Civil Disorder

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age category who were (i) arrested and (ii) prosecuted for a criminal offence during the recent public disorder in August 2011 were subject to a (A) parole and (B) rehabilitation order at the time the offence was committed, by police force area. [70976]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 379W.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many court reports were prepared in connection with people arrested following public disorder in August 2011 in England and Wales; [71146]

(2) how many people *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged following the public disorder in August 2011 were found to be tagged as a result of a previous court order; and if he will make a statement. [71184]

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of *(a)* people, *(b)* women and *(c)* young people convicted for offences carried out in the August public disorder had previously served a custodial sentence. [71297]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes, the chief statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given and previous criminal history.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that people wishing to pursue clinical negligence claims are not deterred from doing so because of the potential cost of such litigation; and if he will make a statement. [70728]

Mr Djanogly: As part of our package of reforms to civil litigation funding and costs, alongside the removal of recoverability of conditional fee agreements, success fees and after the event insurance premiums, there are a number of reforms to assist claimants in the new regime. There will be an increase of 10% in damages for non-pecuniary loss such as pain, suffering and loss of amenity. In personal injury cases, including clinical negligence, there will be a cap on the amount of damages that may be taken as a success fee. The cap will be set at 25% of the damages awarded other than those for future care loss. This will help protect claimants' damages, and is particularly important in clinical negligence claims, where the damages for future care and loss can sometimes run into many millions of pounds. Qualified one way costs shifting, which is to be introduced in personal injury including clinical negligence, will protect the vast majority of claimants from having to pay the defendant's costs if they lose.

We have listened to particular concerns about the funding of expert reports in clinical negligence cases. Such reports are important to establish whether there is a case for bringing proceedings; but they can be expensive. We are discussing with the NHS Litigation Authority and other stakeholders how the commissioning of reports can be improved. In addition, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill includes a tightly drawn power to allow the recoverability of the ATE insurance premiums in clinical negligence cases only. The details will be set out in regulations.

As part of the legal aid reforms the Government recognise that there may be clinical negligence cases, such as obstetrics cases, with high disbursement costs, which are currently funded by legal aid but for which it may be difficult to secure a conditional fee agreement.

We have proposed an 'exceptional funding' scheme, which would ensure that individual cases of this type continue to receive legal aid where failure to do so would be likely to result in a breach of the individual's rights to legal aid under the Human Rights Act 1998 or EU law. In considering whether exceptional funding should be granted we will take into account the ability of the client to present their own case, the complexity of the matter, the importance of the issues at stake, and all other relevant circumstances.

Convictions: Burglary

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest number was of previous convictions for burglary for an individual convicted of an offence of burglary without being sent to prison in each of the last three years. [70643]

Mr Blunt: The highest number of previous convictions for burglary, for an individual who was given a sentence other than immediate custody for a burglary offence in 2010, was 58. 38 of these resulted in a custodial sentence. The equivalent figures for 2009 and 2008 were 54 and 56 respectively. The figures relate to three individuals each of whom has a criminal history ranging over 40 years.

The figures relate to separate sentencing occasions at any time in the offender's criminal history; where an offender was sentenced on the same occasion for several offences it is the primary offence that has been counted. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national Computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71131]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011, I received a total of 706 written questions for answer on a named day. Of these, 18 received substantive answers after the named day. This equates to 2.5% of the total number of questions within the period.

Between 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011, I received 276 written questions for answer on a named day. Of these, 12 received substantive answers after the named day, equating to 4.4% of the total for the period.

Freedom of Information

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy that all bodies which receive public money be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [70795]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to increase transparency and are currently consulting over 200 bodies about their inclusion, with plans to further extend this consultation to housing associations. The operation of the Freedom of Information Act will also be assessed through post-legislative scrutiny. Additionally, the Government's "Open Data Consultation" is proposing and consulting on an extension to the types of organisations to which an open data policy would apply. Further policy in this area will be developed in light of the evidence drawn from this work.

Interpreters: Training

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure that interpreters employed in the criminal justice system have professional qualifications. [71011]

Mr Blunt: As I announced in a written ministerial statement I made to the House on 15 September 2010, *Official Report,* columns 46-47WS, we are reforming the delivery of interpretation and translation services across the justice sector. This will primarily affect England and Wales.

A framework agreement with a single supplier was signed by the Ministry of Justice on 24 August 2011. This document includes clear quality standards specifying the qualifications and experience required for interpreters to work in the justice sector.

Organised Crime

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in implementing the recommendations of the joint thematic review on the management of gang issues. [70152]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: This report raised important issues and action has been taken by the Youth Justice Board and the National Offender Management Service in respect of the recommendations that fell to them.

The Government are currently developing a cross-departmental programme of action to tackle gangs and gang violence. An inter-ministerial group will report to Parliament in October.

Prison Accommodation

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost is per prison place at each public and private sector prison in the most recent year for which figures are available. [71006]

Mr Blunt: The following tables provide direct and overall average resource cost per place and cost per prisoner at each public and private sector prison as published in the National Offender Management Service annual report 2009-10 under management information addendum.

Cost per place is direct resource expenditure or overall resource expressed in terms of the baseline certified normal accommodation and cost per prisoner is direct resource expenditure or overall resource expressed in terms of average population.

Male category B

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Dovegate	32,448,310	34,844	32,995	34,492,848	37,039	35,074
Garth	20,604,543	25,375	24,782	32,047,512	39,467	38,546
Gartree	18,005,960	26,133	26,463	26,669,775	38,708	39,196
Grendon (HMP Grendon and Springhill)	15,059,951	25,656	29,101	22,360,208	38,092	43,208
Kingston	6,154,941	30,929	33,285	9,279,202	46,629	50,180
Lowdham Grange	20,224,371	31,114	29,215	22,224,413	34,191	32,105
Rye Hill	18,464,782	30,775	28,284	20,179,188	33,632	30,910
Total	130,962,859	29,310	28,829	167,253,146	37,431	36,818

Male category C

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Acklington	19,068,806	20,157	20,404	30,497,488	32,238	32,632
Ashwell	10,780,794	17,998	53,591	16,094,180	26,868	80,004
Blundeston	13,185,553	27,413	25,393	19,507,171	40,555	37,568
Buckley Hall	9,398,478	26,853	24,657	14,951,989	42,720	39,227
Bullwood Hall	7,054,113	33,591	31,317	10,332,825	49,204	45,873
Bure	6,443,268	88,567	89,906	7,969,440	109,546	111,201
Canterbury	7,549,122	38,713	24,603	11,966,420	61,366	39,000
Channings Wood	15,813,666	22,656	21,847	24,184,057	34,648	33,411
Coldingley	14,018,059	28,377	27,681	21,837,227	44,205	43,121
Dartmoor	15,336,826	24,203	25,211	21,712,259	34,264	35,691
Edmunds Hill	9,532,440	24,792	25,590	14,506,291	37,728	38,943
Erlestoke	10,782,718	22,942	23,180	15,897,306	33,824	34,176

Male category C

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Everthorpe	13,043,793	21,631	19,324	21,051,089	34,911	31,187
Featherstone	14,299,431	21,417	21,581	22,392,541	33,539	33,796
Guys Marsh	12,187,978	23,438	21,326	18,878,966	36,306	33,034
Haverigg	14,353,097	23,076	23,472	21,156,734	34,014	34,598
Highpoint	18,374,576	19,972	19,888	29,204,539	31,744	31,609
Kennet	11,745,116	67,115	34,706	22,001,586	125,723	65,013
Lancaster Castle	7,357,275	46,272	31,308	9,698,315	60,996	41,269
Lindholme (+IND)	21,100,924	20,020	19,026	36,330,295	34,469	32,757
Littlehey	16,144,636	23,438	21,923	26,791,175	38,894	36,380
Maidstone	12,092,965	21,403	20,552	19,620,660	34,727	33,345
Moorland	20,999,891	21,000	20,690	37,346,130	37,346	36,794
Mount (The)	16,518,570	22,113	21,668	28,055,903	37,558	36,803
Onley	17,490,925	24,664	25,823	26,434,167	37,275	39,027
Ranby	21,782,913	22,457	20,247	34,549,597	35,618	32,114
Risley	21,636,889	20,607	20,134	33,633,695	32,032	31,297
Shepton Mallet	6,004,573	36,391	31,883	9,110,721	55,216	48,376
Stafford	14,786,961	19,955	20,089	22,840,278	30,824	31,029
Stocken	15,432,545	19,811	19,106	26,465,176	33,973	32,764
Usk	7,538,953	23,559	17,805	14,031,444	43,848	33,139
Verne (The)	11,512,865	20,127	19,533	17,439,123	30,488	29,587
Wayland	17,758,908	18,567	17,839	29,659,455	31,008	29,794
Wealstun	16,978,252	20,918	32,925	27,937,314	34,420	54,177
Wellingborough	13,460,515	21,098	21,150	20,968,143	32,865	32,947
Whatton	18,217,997	23,386	22,161	27,615,422	35,450	33,592
Wolds	9,342,246	29,195	24,197	13,035,950	40,737	33,765
Wymott	24,106,269	22,190	21,281	37,480,091	34,501	33,088
Total	533,232,906	23,031	22,588	843,185,160	36,418	35,718

Male dispersal

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Frankland	40,694,639	51,534	53,551	57,449,576	72,752	75,600
Full Sutton	29,368,371	49,303	50,389	43,992,344	73,854	75,480
Long Lartin	28,034,936	46,300	48,364	40,189,039	66,373	69,331
Wakefield	29,341,355	39,057	39,744	42,122,786	56,070	57,058
Whitemoor	31,579,262	64,360	70,792	44,973,426	91,658	100,818
Total	159,018,563	49,190	51,185	228,727,171	70,753	73,623

Female closed

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Bronzefield	24,401,273	51,817	54,865	26,430,696	56,126	59,428
Downview	10,590,306	29,582	30,838	16,167,334	45,160	47,078
Foston Hall	9,983,242	35,276	43,453	13,941,063	49,262	60,679
Send	8,721,037	30,926	31,935	13,225,766	46,900	48,431
Total	53,695,858	38,522	41,592	69,764,860	50,050	54,039

Female local

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Eastwood Park	11,181,553	34,299	37,035	15,718,419	48,216	52,062
Holloway	21,350,878	40,581	49,701	31,301,642	59,471	72,837
Low Newton	11,722,468	37,333	42,003	16,002,537	50,963	57,340
New Hall	15,818,500	40,174	43,607	22,425,702	56,954	61,821
Styal	15,296,944	33,993	35,852	20,934,776	46,522	49,066
Total	75,378,344	37,500	41,873	106,383,076	52,925	59,096

Female open

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Askham Grange	3,622,748	24,152	30,788	5,544,477	36,963	47,120
East Sutton Park	2,751,212	28,074	31,205	4,306,243	43,941	48,842
Total	6,373,960	25,701	30,967	9,850,720	39,721	47,858

Male closed YOI (age 15 to 21)

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Aylesbury	13,584,962	30,805	31,152	21,244,077	48,173	48,716
Brinsford	16,256,727	29,829	31,798	24,465,060	44,890	47,853
Castington	14,754,834	36,887	42,757	20,825,867	52,065	60,350
Deerbolt	15,085,242	29,406	31,620	22,758,332	44,363	47,703
Feltham	33,138,053	43,488	50,689	48,404,304	63,523	74,041
Glen Parva	18,338,450	27,508	23,265	28,685,773	43,029	36,392
Hindley	18,216,153	32,970	59,823	25,482,012	46,121	83,685
Lancaster Farms	16,896,876	35,202	33,153	26,371,549	54,941	51,743
Northallerton	5,742,075	39,062	25,417	8,664,405	58,942	38,352
Portland	15,576,852	25,747	29,257	22,794,383	37,677	42,813
Reading	9,016,129	47,453	36,005	12,660,018	66,632	50,556
Rochester	17,550,300	23,421	25,627	26,857,366	35,842	39,217
Stoke Heath	17,078,907	26,938	29,141	25,132,984	39,642	42,883
Swinfen Hall	14,780,758	24,471	23,811	23,215,043	38,436	37,398
Total	226,016,318	31,006	32,633	337,561,174	46,308	48,738

Male YOI young people (age 15 to 17)

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Ashfield	23,141,092	56,858	81,292	23,309,981	57,273	81,885
Cookham Wood	8,935,386	61,623	95,822	11,867,847	81,847	127,269
Huntercombe	13,519,968	37,555	58,150	19,059,646	52,943	81,977
Warren Hill	9,896,726	44,580	55,496	13,552,415	61,047	75,995
Werrington	7,013,541	43,835	53,200	9,695,774	60,599	73,546
Wetherby	15,283,617	37,460	46,302	22,006,290	53,937	66,669
Total	77,790,329	45,705	62,199	99,491,953	58,456	79,551

Male local

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Altcourse	46,438,070	58,486	35,883	49,169,546	61,926	37,993
Bedford	11,890,253	36,812	25,041	17,788,224	55,072	37,462
Belmarsh	39,859,998	49,825	45,589	60,600,103	75,750	69,310
Birmingham	29,659,870	26,745	20,585	45,802,798	41,301	31,789
Bristol	15,480,815	36,511	25,465	22,249,958	52,476	36,600
Brixton	20,587,169	33,972	26,958	29,421,515	48,550	38,527
Bullingdon	22,490,458	25,586	20,589	36,710,197	41,764	33,607
Cardiff	16,189,470	29,543	20,055	29,663,937	54,131	36,747
Chelmsford	17,654,734	31,868	26,149	26,466,755	47,774	39,200
Doncaster	23,496,327	30,475	21,018	33,875,362	43,937	30,302
Dorchester	7,836,901	54,048	33,647	10,649,537	73,445	45,723
Durham	23,035,128	38,301	23,902	33,621,757	55,904	34,886
Exeter	13,135,508	41,568	25,080	18,705,527	59,195	35,715
Forest Bank	31,562,625	36,051	26,300	35,171,441	40,173	29,307
Gloucester	9,222,434	40,989	30,538	12,814,607	56,954	42,432
Highdown	24,121,005	24,145	22,293	41,506,799	41,548	38,361
Holme House	22,388,805	25,898	23,115	35,784,867	41,394	36,946
Hull	21,723,433	30,046	21,628	34,326,617	47,478	34,176
Leeds	24,321,857	29,339	21,324	37,730,512	45,513	33,080
Leicester	9,440,244	44,954	26,443	13,293,823	63,304	37,238
Lewes	16,313,366	26,185	25,496	24,599,257	39,485	38,446
Lincoln	15,496,171	34,590	23,137	23,031,164	51,409	34,388
Liverpool	26,051,023	21,965	19,691	39,507,150	33,311	29,862
Manchester	35,300,991	36,619	28,774	52,249,605	54,201	42,589
Norwich	16,563,142	30,266	25,985	25,970,579	47,457	40,743
Nottingham	17,900,765	46,718	32,453	26,308,934	68,662	47,697
Parc	45,393,240	54,169	38,660	47,744,362	56,974	40,662
Pentonville	31,337,256	34,295	26,681	45,719,507	50,035	38,927
Peterborough	31,292,633	37,253	32,937	34,828,071	41,462	36,658
Preston	19,562,006	43,183	25,856	27,300,078	60,265	36,083
Shrewsbury	8,672,656	47,134	28,789	12,150,980	66,038	40,335
Swansea	9,212,630	37,148	23,206	15,843,749	63,886	39,909
Wandsworth	36,199,901	32,753	21,892	52,939,638	47,898	32,015
Winchester	15,657,238	31,377	22,632	23,250,124	46,593	33,607

Male local

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Woodhill	32,723,769	48,817	40,226	50,579,248	75,454	62,175
Wormwood Scrubs	27,951,482	23,768	21,934	45,345,893	38,559	35,584
Total	816,163,373	34,473	26,194	1,172,722,221	49,534	37,637

Male open

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Ford	8,612,013	15,461	15,963	15,104,764	27,118	27,998
Hollesley Bay	6,934,500	20,100	20,613	11,273,343	32,676	33,510
Kirkham	13,515,299	22,907	23,123	20,443,844	34,651	34,977
Leyhill	10,400,365	19,861	20,877	16,392,988	31,304	32,907
North Sea Camp	5,908,150	18,579	19,366	8,956,643	28,166	29,358
Sudbury	9,111,329	15,682	15,903	14,846,122	25,553	25,913
Total	54,481,662	18,692	19,207	87,017,705	29,855	30,677

Male open YOI

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Thorn Cross	8,766,128	27,224	30,473	13,233,592	41,098	46,003
Total	8,766,128	27,224	30,473	13,233,592	41,098	46,003

Semi open

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Blantyre House	3,081,756	25,260	25,771	4,753,287	38,961	39,749
Drake Hall	8,209,835	26,063	29,444	11,782,750	37,406	42,257
Kirklevington Grange	5,810,431	20,532	21,434	8,981,585	31,737	33,132
Latchmere House	4,636,863	22,400	23,281	7,199,983	34,783	36,151
Morton Hall	8,625,373	22,004	24,839	12,930,194	32,985	37,236
Total	30,364,258	23,021	24,972	45,647,798	34,608	37,542

Cluster

Establishment name	*Direct resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*	*Overall resource expenditure*	*Cost per place*	*Cost per prisoner*
Brockhill/Hewell Grange/Blakenhurst	28,445,145	24,250	20,558	46,545,585	39,681	33,639
Isle of Sheppey—Central Services	50,732,398	23,306	22,559	83,436,429	38,331	37,102
IOW Cluster	39,820,487	25,537	23,952	61,669,948	39,549	37,095
Total	118,998,031	24,240	22,474	191,651,961	39,040	36,195

Notes:

1. Displayed figures are subject to rounding.
2. Establishments are categorised in these tables by their main role as at the end of 2009-10. Establishments that have more than one role have been placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. For this reason, performance of prisons within a category cannot necessarily be compared on a like for like basis.
3. There are two unit cost measurements. The 'direct resource expenditure' includes costs met locally by the establishments. The 'overall cost' includes prison-related overheads met centrally by NOMS, for example, property costs (including depreciation and cost of capital), major maintenance, prisoner escort and custody service (relates to transporting prisoners) and central HQ overheads.
4. YOI refers to young offender institutions.
5. Data for Elmley, Standford Hill and Swaleside are reported under the Sheppey cluster. Similarly, data for Blakenhurst, Brockhill and Hewell Grange are reported together as a cluster. Data for Parkhurst, Camp Hill and Albany are reported under the Isle of Wight cluster.
6. Cookham Wood changed from a female closed prison to a male juvenile prison in October 2007. Data for 2009-10 are shown under the category male juvenile.
7. Dover and Haslar are not included as they are immigration removal centres operating under Detention Centre Rules 2001.
8. Lindholme includes Lindholme IDC. It is a split site; part category C training prison and part immigration detention centre.
9. The following expenditure is not included:

A one-off impairment charge of £525.05 million as a result of the revaluation of land and buildings.
Operation Safeguard (use of police cells).
Cost of capital on assets in the course of construction (£22.47 million).
Project, operating and commissioning costs totalling £2.71 million at HMPYOI Isis, as the establishment was not opened during the course of year.

10. Private prisons and public prisons are included. The unit costs are not directly comparable because of different methods of financing.
11. For certain prisons the unit cost is not typical, because they are in the process of change (e.g. Bure was building up capacity during the year).

Prisoner Escapes

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisoners have absconded from HMP Sudbury since it opened. [71365]

Mr Blunt: HMP Sudbury, originally built as a hospital for the US air force for the D-day landings, was converted to a prison in 1948. Table 1 shows the annual abscond figures, which are available only from 1997.

The annual number of absconds has reduced significantly over the past 14 years. Of those prisoners that abscond, the majority are quickly recaptured, returned to closed conditions and referred to the police for prosecution.

Table 1: Breakdown of total absconds from HMP Sudbury since 1997-98 by financial year

	Number of absconds
1997-98	81
1998-99	75
1999-2000	63
2000-01	69
2001-02	81
2002-03	68
2003-04	75
2004-05	77
2005-06	76
2006-07	78
2007-08	55
2008-09	23
2009-10	29
2010-11	30

Note:

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support citizens advice bureaux. [68780]

Mr Davey: The Government recognise the important work done by citizens advice bureaux. That is why BIS is continuing to provide core funding for Citizens Advice, the national umbrella organisation for the Citizens Advice Service. Indeed, we are proposing increasing our support of it to help it reinforce its role at the heart of the consumer landscape.

The Department has also agreed to continue funding of the debt advice programme this year until responsibility for this is taken on by the Money Advice Service in April 2012. We have committed another £27 million to this and much of this is delivered by bureaux.

However, I also recognise that many bureaux are facing a challenging time at the moment and BIS is currently considering this issue with other interested departments, working with the voluntary advice sector.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71123]

Mr Davey: The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will usually be preferable to provide an answer a few days late than to provide an incomplete answer. Figures are recorded by the Department on a monthly basis and from the total number of 1,339 named day parliamentary questions answered between May 2010 and July 2011, 454 did not receive a substantive reply on the date stipulated by the Member. The figures for March to July 2011 are 553 total answers of which 250 did not receive a substantive reply on the date specified.

The figures have been drawn from the Department's database which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009/10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Employers' Liability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to improve the employability skills of the UK labour market. [71009]

Mr Hayes: Employability skills are essential to ensure that employers can recruit the talent they need to enable sustainable economic growth, social mobility and to help build the big society. Employability skills vary by the age of a person, the point at which they leave the education system and the requirements of employers in different sectors. There are a number of Government programmes to support employability. As part of our skills strategy, aimed mainly at those aged 19 and over, the Government are funding literacy and numeracy courses for those adults who lack these basic skills. We plan to maximise the economic and personal returns of this training following a review of basic skills provision currently under way, and we will be taking the necessary steps to make it more effective. Functional skills qualifications in English, mathematics and information and communications technology will become mandatory components of all apprenticeships frameworks by September 2012 replacing key skills as part of the programme. Unemployed people on active benefits can access skills training fully funded by the Skills Funding Agency to improve relevant labour market skills, including their employability skills, where this is appropriate to help them get sustainable employment.

The recent Higher Education White Paper outlined proposals that will deliver a new focus on graduate employability. All universities have now set out in employability statements the range of support they provide to help students prepare for employment. We are also considering how wider employability skills can be further addressed through the Education and Skills Growth Review.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding each higher education institution received from endowments, including alumni giving, in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [69051]

Mr Willetts: The data we hold centrally show the total amount of income each HEI receives each year in new endowments given in that year, and income received on existing endowments already invested. It also shows the total value of endowments held by each HEI each academic year to 31 July 2008, 2009 and 2010. The table showing these data for the three most recent years available will be placed in the Libraries of the House. These figures are consistent with the published accounts for all HEIs. It should be noted that these published accounts do not include donations received by university colleges (e.g. Oxford and Cambridge colleges).

Further detail on the income HEIs receive from alumni can be found in the annual Ross-CASE survey, available online at:

http://www.rosscasesurvey.org.uk/

These figures do include donations given to university colleges.

The Government's matched funding for voluntary giving scheme uses £200 million of Government funding as a lever to generate £400 million of additional donations, including from alumni, to universities over three academic years from 2008-09 to 2010-11. The scheme is on track to achieve the target of an additional £400 million in private donations by the end of academic year 2010-11.

Higher Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate students there were at the (i) university of York and (ii) university of York St John in each year since 1996-97. [71436]

Mr Willetts: The latest available data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

UK-domiciled enrolments[1] at the university of York and York St John university by level of study, academic years 1996/97 to 2009/10

Academic year	University of York		York St John university	
	Postgraduate	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Undergraduate
1996/97	1,265	4,965	290	3,620
1997/98	1,245	5,340	390	3,465
1998/99	1,240	5,750	415	3,480
1999/2000	1,390	5,830	540	3,415
2000/01	1,430	6,145	525	3,660
2001/02	1,625	6,725	660	3,915
2002/03	1,710	6,965	810	4,465
2003/04	1,975	7,320	775	4,280
2004/05	1,920	7,600	610	4,385
2005/06	2,040	8,215	705	5,110
2006/07	1,785	8,080	730	4,875
2007/08	1,880	8,030	615	4,825
2008/09	2,100	8,105	620	5,270
2009/10	2,240	9,080	625	4,540

[1] Enrolments are the total number of students regardless of their year of study.

Note:

Figures are based on a snapshot at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five. Figures cover enrolments on both full-time and part-time courses.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Land Registry: Applications

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for adverse possession of plots of land were made to the Land Registry in each of the last 10 years; and how many such applications were successful. [70891]

Mr Davey: Applications for registration as the owner of land on the basis of adverse possession can be divided into two types. First, there are those where the land concerned is unregistered and the application is to register the squatter as the first "registered proprietor" (in other words, the first registered owner). Secondly, those where the land has already been registered and the application is to register the squatter as the new registered proprietor.

Land Registry does not have reliable statistics for the first type of application. One of the main reasons for this is that it is not unusual for these "first registration applications" to be made on more than one basis. For example, the title deeds may not be entirely clear, and so, while Land Registry is satisfied that the applicant can properly be registered as proprietor and completes the application, it might not be clear whether he or she has a "documentary title" (the land involved falling within the extent covered by the title deeds) or a "possessory title" (the land falling outside the title deeds but the applicant having acquired title by virtue of adverse possession). Such an application may well not be recorded as being an adverse possession application.

Land Registry does have statistics for the second type of application for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11: these show that the number of successful applications of this type in these years were 1,111, 1,059 and 868 respectively.

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for adverse possession of plots of land made to the Land Registry in each of the last 10 years were found to be fraudulent. [70892]

Mr Davey: All applications for adverse possession made to Land Registry are considered on their merits. Applications either succeed or fail. There are no figures kept on why applications fail and we are therefore unable to provide the figures requested.

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many prosecutions under the Fraud Act 2006 were brought by the Land Registry as a result of dishonest statements being made by applicants for adverse possession in each of the last 10 years. [70893]

Mr Davey: There have been no prosecutions under the Fraud Act made by Land Registry as a result of dishonest statements made by applicants for adverse possession in the last 10 years.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on increasing *(a)* account access through post offices and *(b)* awareness of account access through post offices. [70776]

Mr Davey: The Government have been clear that we wish to see a situation where all UK current accounts are accessible through the post office network. However, it is ultimately a commercial decision for those banks that do not currently extend this service to their customers as to whether they put these arrangements in place with Post Office Ltd (POL).

The promotion of products and services is an operational matter, and is therefore the responsibility of senior management at Post Office Ltd.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase public awareness of access to bank accounts at post offices. [71158]

Mr Davey: This Government have been clear that we wish to see a situation where all UK current accounts are accessible through the post office network, providing a convenient place for people to access their cash, particularly where a bank branch is not available.

The promotion of products and services that are provided at post offices is an operational matter and is therefore the responsibility of senior management at Post Office Ltd.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Santander and *(b)* HSBC on customer access to bank accounts at post offices. [71159]

Mr Davey: This Government have been clear that we wish to see a situation where all UK current accounts are accessible through the post office network. Ministers and officials have been in regular contact with HSBC and Santander on this subject.

Rural Communities Policy Unit

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether officials of his Department have had recent discussions with the Rural Communities Policy Unit in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [67149]

Mr Davey: Officials from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills have regular discussion with officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Rural Communities Policy Unit, the most recent of which were on 11 and 12 July 2011.

Union Modernisation Fund

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether funding provided by the Union Modernisation Fund has been used in projects to purchase services from the Campaign Company. [71039]

Mr Davey: Yes. The Campaign Company area communications consultancy who specialise in engagement with individuals and groups who are often less heard of or are seen as hard to reach.

The company have worked with several of the trade unions who have undertaken Union Modernisation Fund (UMF) projects and they are currently working with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW), GMB and Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU) to design communications and training and development solutions targeted at vulnerable workers, which is the focus of the UMF round three projects.

Waste Disposal: VAT

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues on allowing local authorities to undertake commercial waste collections free of VAT; and what account he took of the potential effects on private small and medium-sized enterprises dealing with commercial waste collection during the decision-making process. [71064]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The issue is not one of competition law, but instead one of VAT law. As such, this was an operational matter and the decision was made by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs officials in response to a legal challenge against the taxation of local authority commercial waste collection services. Because of this, it was not possible to consult more widely.

The Environmental Services Association have made representations to HMRC and there is ongoing dialogue about the VAT treatment of commercial waste collection.

CABINET OFFICE

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Richard Graham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many non-departmental public bodies have been *(a)* closed or disbanded and *(b)* established since June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [70395]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number of arm's length bodies operating in Government; and if he will make a statement. [70865]

Mr Maude: Following the Public Bodies Review, 49 arm's length bodies have been abolished. The Government's reforms are expected to bring about an overall decrease of approximately 250 arm's length bodies. The Cabinet Office publishes a list of non-departmental public bodies, and their parent Departments, in its publication 'Public Bodies'. The latest report provides this information up to 31 March 2009. More recent data will be published in due course, and will take into account changes that have occurred due to the Public Bodies Review, and proposed legislation.

SMEs

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when the last SME Product Surgery took place; [70066]

(2) when he expects the next SME Product Surgery to be held. [70067]

Mr Maude: The most recent Product Surgery took place on 19 July 2011 as the final stage of the Innovation Launch Pad process. The Home Office is planning an SME Product Surgery on 24 October 2011.

TREASURY

Tax Avoidance

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) of 29 July 2011, *Official Report,* columns 819-820W, on tax avoidance, if he will require HM Revenue and Customs to outline its budget for tax compliance in each year of the spending review period. [70911]

Mr Gauke: We do not plan to require HMRC to break down their funding in this way as overall funding for HMRC's compliance activity is not broken down or allocated in this way. Many aspects of its activity—from policy making, through support and education, to audits and investigations—contribute to delivering increased compliance from error through to evasion as well as countering criminal attacks and avoidance.

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67563]

Justine Greening: The Department has spent £20,450 on subscriptions on Sky TV since May 2010.

Child Benefit

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allow child benefit payments to be made to both parents where parental responsibility is shared after separation; and if he will make a statement. [70729]

Justine Greening: Child benefit provides an element of support to the vast majority of families for their children. Where more than one person is responsible for a child and each satisfies the entitlement conditions, the law allows only one of them to receive the payment. The Government's view is that financial support should be paid to the person with the main responsibility for the child.

Child Tax Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of the child care element of the child tax credit in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area have had their level of credits reduced in the 2011-12 financial year. [71022]

Mr Gauke: The requested information is not available.

Coastal Communities Fund

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effect on the Coastal Communities Fund of his proposals for machine games duty. [71118]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Corporation Tax

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to deal with any future failures in the online system for filing corporation tax returns. [70323]

Mr Gauke: There have been no recent failures in the HM Revenue and Customs online service for filing Company Tax Returns. There is, however, a live issue in that the service will not be updated until October 2011 to take account of the rate reductions that took effect when the Finance Act received Royal Assent on 19 July 2011. This is to avoid the risk of service disruption from implementing a large number of changes to HM Revenue and Customs' online systems at the same time. The Department is working, as a matter of high priority, to reduce the level of risk so that any future changes can be implemented without unnecessary delay for companies that want to file their Company Tax Returns early.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the financial effects on HM Revenue and Customs of the inability of businesses to submit their corporation tax returns online due to systems failures. [70324]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs' online service for filing Company Tax Returns will not be updated until October 2011 to take account of the rate reductions that took effect when the Finance Act received Royal Assent on 19 July 2011. This only affects filing by companies with accounting periods that end after 31 March 2011, which have a tax liability or are expecting a repayment, and which wish to file even though they are not required to do so until after 31 March 2012. Payments can be made by such companies at any time and are not affected. If such a company has an urgent need to file for a repayment, it can, as advertised on HM Revenue and Customs' website, contact its Corporation Tax Office for further advice.

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms have been established between the central office and local offices of HM Revenue and Customs to *(a)* share information on complaints and *(b)* avoid inconsistencies in information provided to local businesses on corporation tax returns. [70325]

Mr Gauke: Since 2007, HM Revenue and Customs has had a national complaints database used by all business areas to log complaints received. It is used to gather management information and provide a strategic view of complaints performance at both business area and departmental level. It also enables HM Revenue and Customs to identify poor customer service and processes that need to be improved. Feedback is also provided by the Adjudicator and the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

Information for companies about Company Tax Returns is on HM Revenue and Customs' website. To avoid inconsistencies, central guidance is issued to staff in local offices as necessary about how to respond to common queries.

Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make an assessment of the effects of debit card surcharges on consumer spending; and if he will make a statement; [71292]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Payment Services Regulations 2009 to ban debit card surcharges; and if he will make a statement; [71295]

(3) what representations he has received from consumer organisations on the practice of travel companies charging consumers for using debit cards online; and if he will make a statement. [71296]

Mr Hoban: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published a report on 28 June 2011 on card surcharges following a super-complaint from Which?. The Government have received representations from Which? asking them to implement the OFT's recommendations quickly. The Government are considering the OFT's recommendations and will respond in due course.

Arch Cru Investment

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from those who invested in Arch Cru funds on the compensation package which is being made available; and if he will make a statement. [70726]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury has received representations on this issue from a range of stakeholders, but it is not the Government's practice to disclose details of all such representations.

In relation to Arch Cru funds, Capita Financial Managers Ltd (CFM) announced that

> "The Financial Services Authority (FSA) will, in due course, be publishing a statement of its findings in relation to CFM's role regarding the Arch Cru funds".

The FSA is continuing to look at the issues surrounding the Arch Cru funds, and it would not be appropriate to comment before this work is completed.

The FSA is responsible for the regulation of financial services firms and operates independently from Government under the powers given to it in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. HM Treasury sets the legal framework for the regulation of financial services, but does not have investigative or prosecuting powers of its own.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67910]

Justine Greening: Details of ministerial travel are published quarterly on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Environment Protection: Taxation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely level of revenue which will arise from the introduction of a carbon floor price up to 2020. [70314]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: Budget 2011 set out the estimated revenue from the carbon price floor up to 2015-16.

Revenues are dependent on the traded price of carbon in the EU Emissions Trading System.

The Office for Budget Responsibility has recently made an assessment of long-term revenue sustainability. This includes combined revenues from the carbon price floor and the EU Emissions Trading System. This is available on page 99 in its "Fiscal sustainability report", July 2011, available online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/pubs/FSR2011.pdf

Equitable Life Payment Scheme

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received in support of the payment of compensation to Equitable Life policyholders who took out policies before 1992; and if he will make a statement. [71294]

Mr Hoban: In her report, the parliamentary ombudsman recommended that the aim of the scheme should be

> "to put those people who suffered a relative loss back into the position that they would have been in had maladministration not occurred".

The first returns that would have been different if maladministration had not occurred were those of 1991, which would not have influenced policyholders' decisions until September 1992. Therefore, with profits annuitants who bought their policies before September 1992 did so before maladministration could have affected their investment decision.

The Government listened to a range of representation from interested parties on this and other issues in advance of announcing details of the scheme. We are now in the delivery stage of the scheme and the focus is upon making payments to the defined eligible population.

Financial Services: USA

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department expects to provide assistance to the US Department of Justice in its criminal investigation of the actions of investment banking firms. [71072]

Mr Hoban: The setting of LIBOR by the British Banking Association (BBA) and the contributions made by banks to that process are not regulated activities under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The mechanisms used by the BBA to detect manipulation of LIBOR are a matter for the BBA.

Any assistance that might be given to the US Department of Justice is a matter for the relevant investigatory authorities in the UK, which include the Financial Services Authority with respect to the conduct of regulated firms.

As part of its role in helping establish the LIBOR rate, the BBA may also provide information to the Department of Justice, if requested.

Freedom of Information

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many requests made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since 25 May 2010 have been subject to an extension beyond the statutory 20 working days *(a)* where a public interest balance assessment was carried out that exceeded an additional 30 working days before a decision was taken and *(b)* where a public balance assessment was carried out which had exceeded an additional 30 working days and where no decision had been reached by 1 September 2011; [70512]

(2) how many requests made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since 25 May 2010 have been subject to an extension beyond the statutory 20 working days for a response while a public interest balance assessment was made; and what the average time to elapse between the date of extension and the date of the decision on the request has been and the average time of this time extension before a decision was reached; [70513]

(3) how many and what proportion of requests made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 since 25 May 2010 have not been answered within 20 working days. [70514]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Statistics on the Treasury's performance under the Freedom of Information Act are available from the House Library and published by the Ministry of Justice. The most recent publication is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

The data published comply with the agreed reporting requirements for central Government Departments. The most recent published information shows that HMT responded to 98% of requests within the statutory deadline. Of these, 87% of cases were replied to within 20 working days and in 11% of cases the time to reply was extended.

Official Hospitality

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* four star, *(b)* five star and *(c)* other hotel accommodation for (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in his Department between (A) November 1999 and June 2001, (B) May 2002 and June 2007 and (C) June 2007 and January 2008. [68374]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not limit bookings by star rating but rather by a cap on cost per night. Accordingly, no records of star ratings is kept. It has not been possible to obtain the information for past bookings as the Department's travel supplier during these periods is no longer trading.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 13 July 2011 with regard to Mrs Rahman. [70812]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs' Chief Executive's Office wrote to the right hon. Member on 7 September 2011 on my behalf.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to extend the national insurance contributions holiday. [69614]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The policy is designed to support new businesses in parts of the country that are most reliant on the public sector, assisting them in their first year by reducing the costs of hiring staff and improving the likelihood of business survival.

The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs holiday but believe the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the NICs holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Scunthorpe constituency have benefited from the national insurance contribution holiday since its introduction. [69615]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* As of 15 August, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has received five successful applications from businesses in Scunthorpe constituency.

Pensions: Public Sector

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the opt out rates for public sector pensions were in each year from 2006 to 2010. [71149]

Danny Alexander: This information is not held centrally. Departments responsible for the pension schemes hold data on scheme membership.

Personal Financial Information

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what sanctions apply to UK clearing banks which seek to elicit and archive inappropriate personal financial information unrelated to an adult with incapacity from guardians and deputies when registering the relevant court's order of appointment; [71250]

(2) if he will instruct the Financial Services Authority to review the level and extent of personal financial information unrelated to an adult with incapacity requested by UK clearing banks from guardians and deputies when seeking to register the relevant court's order of appointment. [71249]

Mr Hoban: It is important that banks have procedures in place to verify both the identity of their customers, and the identity of people acting as guardians and deputies on behalf of their customers. Identity checks make it more difficult for fraud to occur, and so help to protect consumers. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) does not have specific rules on the procedures banks should take to verify identity, though the Government recognise that measures taken need to be proportionate to the risks posed, as well as being effective.

If a guardian or deputy believes a bank has asked them to provide personal financial information that they consider to be inappropriate, they should consider complaining to the bank. If they complain and are unhappy with the outcome, they can refer their complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Taxation

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many changes to taxation policy he has made since the 2011 Budget; and whether a tax information and impact note was published for each change. [71021]

Mr Gauke: Tax information and impact notes (TIINs) relating to changes announced at Budget 2011 were published in the 'Overview of tax legislation and rates' document, available on the HM Treasury website.

As set out in 'The new approach to tax policy making: a response to the Consultation', the Government will publish a TIIN at the point at which detailed policy design is settled. In most cases, this will be the point at which draft legislation is published for scrutiny by interested parties.

TIINs to accompany the three changes that have been announced since the Budget are published in line with this approach.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the combined effects on Exchequer revenue in a full year of taxing aviation fuel at the same rate as petrol for cars, imposing a 20% tax on air fares for aircraft departing UK airports and abolishing air passenger duty, assuming no change in demand for air travel; and what the effects of such measures would be using the same assumptions, but without abolition of air passenger duty. [68155]

Justine Greening: Under the terms of the Chicago convention, it is illegal to tax fuel for international flights. Accordingly the Government have not made an estimate of the revenue that would result from taxation of fuel in the manner suggested.

The UK already imposes air passenger duty on airlines for passengers that they carry and therefore no estimate of imposing a 20% tax on airfares has been made.

Taxation: Business

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury has had with the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs on the appropriateness of discussion and negotiation in the settlement of tax liabilities. [62333]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials have frequent discussions with the chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his proposals for taxation of offshore gambling companies will ensure *(a)* that such companies pay an equivalent rate of tax to land-based companies offering gambling services to customers in the UK and *(b)* that collection of such taxes is fully enforceable. [71236]

Justine Greening: On 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 62WS, the Government announced their intention to review the taxation regime for remote gambling, looking at the case for taxing operators on the basis of customer location.

As part of the review, the Government are identifying options for reform and are seeking further input from stakeholders regarding the proposals. No decisions have been taken.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations officials of his Department have met as part of the consultation on reform of the taxation of gaming machines through the introduction of machine games duty. [71119]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions. A summary of responses to the consultation will be published in the autumn.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests his Department has received for meetings in relation to the proposals for machine games duty; and how many meetings have taken place. [71122]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the public consultation period for the introduction of machine games duty was less than 12 weeks. [71186]

Justine Greening: The response time was shorter than 12 weeks to allow for proper consideration of all consultation responses ahead of the publication of a second draft of the legislation in the autumn.

To ensure that stakeholders were able to contribute as fully as possible to the consultation, Her Majesty's Treasury and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs held meetings with industry groups and individual companies.

Taxation: Isle of Man

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated value was of the Isle of Man's share of joint indirect tax revenues in each year until 2015 *(a)* when the 2009 formula was agreed between the Isle of Man and HM Treasury, *(b)* after the Isle of Man changed the way that it measured its national income in 2010 and *(c)* under the revised formula announced on 18 July 2011. [69524]

Mr Gauke: When the revenue sharing formula was revised in 2009, the UK's estimate of the Isle of Man's share of joint indirect tax revenues was £230 million for 2011-12 and £245 million for 2012-13. Estimates were not made for subsequent years.

After the 2010 change to the methodology for measuring the Isle of Man's national income the estimate of its share for 2011-12 was £334 million and for 2012-13 £365 million. Estimates were not made for subsequent years.

Under the agreement announced on 18 July 2011 the Isle of Man will receive £272 million for 2011-12 and £252 million for 2012-13 (including transitional payments of £45 million and a further £25 million respectively). The current estimate for the Isle of Man's share of joint revenues for 2013-14 is £270 million. We do not have an estimate for the year 2014-15.

VAT

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the increase in the rate of VAT on households in each parliamentary constituency. [70740]

Mr Gauke: Data to make an assessment of the effect of the increase in the rate of VAT on households in each parliamentary constituency are not available.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* annual cost to the Exchequer (i) before and (ii) after taking account of consequent changes in other tax receipts and *(b)* effects on employment of reducing value added tax from 20 per cent. to five per cent. on the repair, maintenance and improvement of residential property. [70788]

Mr Gauke: The cost of reducing VAT from 20% to 5% on repair, maintenance and improvement of residential property, in the absence of behavioural change, is tentatively estimated to be in the region of £2.2 billion.

No estimate has been made on the effect on employment from reducing value added tax on the repair, maintenance and improvement of residential property.

VAT: Channel Islands

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the provision of low value consignment relief on entertainment products sold by mail order from the Channel Islands on independent high street entertainment stores. [70987]

Mr Gauke: We have not performed an assessment but we are aware of the impact on high street stores, and the Exchequer. The Treasury is currently considering further measures to stem the impact of LVCR.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to remove low value consignment relief for *(a)* music and *(b)* other entertainment products sold by mail order from the Channel Islands. [70989]

Mr Gauke: The Government have not finalised their plans for changes to the low value consignment relief for goods imported from the Channel Islands at this time but are reviewing options.

VAT: Entertainments

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission, *(b)* multiple retailers and *(c)* independent stores on the effects of low value consignment relief on (i) music and (ii) the general entertainment industry. [70988]

Mr Gauke: The Government have been in contact with the European Commission to discuss their options to restrict the low value consignment relief and have received representations from a number of trade sectors affected by LVCR. Ministers are now reviewing what options are open to the Government to make further changes to LVCR.

VAT: Imports

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue forgone by the Exchequer due to the provision of low value consignment relief in each of the last five years. [70990]

Mr Gauke: The estimate of the revenue forgone by the Exchequer due to the provision of low value consignment relief in each of the last five calendar years is as follows:

	Loss of VAT (£ million)
2006	90
2007	100
2008	130
2009	140
2010	130

For consistency and ease of comparison, the figures in the table assume a constant standard rate of VAT of 17.5%. The actual cost for 2009 is slightly different from these figures reflecting the temporary cut in the standard rate of VAT.

VAT: Waste Disposal

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he consulted specialists in European competition law before taking the decision to allow local authorities to undertake commercial waste collections free of VAT; [71063]

(2) whether his Department consulted representatives of the private management sector before taking the decision to allow local authorities to undertake commercial waste collections free of VAT; [71060]

(3) what consultation his Department undertook before taking the decision to allow local authorities to undertake commercial waste collections free of VAT. [71062]

Mr Gauke: The issue is not one of competition law, but instead one of VAT law. As such, this was an operational matter and the decision was made by HMRC officials in response to a legal challenge against the taxation of local authority commercial waste collection services. Because of this, it was not possible to consult more widely.

The Environmental Services Association have made representations to HMRC and there is ongoing dialogue about the VAT treatment of commercial waste collection.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of *(a)* abortions performed (i) before the 12th week of pregnancy, (ii) between the 12th and 18th weeks of pregnancy, (iii) between the 18th and 24th weeks of pregnancy and (iv) after the 24th week of pregnancy and *(b)* provision of the morning after pill in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [R] [71017]

Anne Milton: The cost to the national health service of abortions performed before the 12th week of pregnancy, between the 12th and 18th weeks of pregnancy, between the 18th and 24th weeks of pregnancy and after the 24th week of pregnancy is not collected by the Department.

The Department does not collect the cost to the NHS of the provision of the morning after pill. However, the NHS Information Centre is able to provide the net ingredient cost of drugs supplied which is shown in the following table, but does not hold information on the total cost to the NHS.

Figures are taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) database which contains information on the number of items dispensed in England. These figures cover emergency contraceptives issued on prescriptions in primary care only. Emergency contraceptives can also be supplied without a prescription either through contraceptive and sexual health clinics, or by pharmacists under a Patient Group Direction. Emergency contraception may also be purchased by patients over the age of 16 in pharmacies.

Emergency contraceptives are listed in the British National Formulary under paragraph 7.3.5. The figures given are for the morning after pill only and do not include prescriptions for intra-uterine contraceptive devices, which can also be used for emergency contraception.

Financial year	*Net ingredient cost (£)*
2007-08	1,839,762
2008-09	1,704,023
2009-10	1,597,437

Notes:

PCA Data

1. Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

2. Prescribers are general practitioners, hospital doctors, dentists and non-medical prescribers such as nurses and pharmacists.

3. *Net ingredient cost (NIC)*

NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

Action on Smoking and Health

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met representatives of ASH in each of the last three years. [70771]

Anne Milton: Records of ministerial meetings with outside organisations can be found on the Department's website. These records show that, since 1 January 2009, departmental Ministers have met with representatives of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) once and spoken at ASH-arranged events twice.

Ministers have also met once with Smokefree Action Coalition, of which ASH is a member.

The Department does not keep a central diary of the engagements that every departmental official has had with ASH representatives, nor is a central record kept of meetings attended by officials that an ASH representative may also have attended.

Breast Feeding

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which are the principal research findings underpinning his Department's promotion of breast-feeding over formula. [70756]

Anne Milton: The Department's policy on infant feeding is based on the advice by the United Kingdom's Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition who assessed the scientific evidence and the World Health Organisation's systematic review "The optimal duration of exclusive breastfeeding" and concluded that there was sufficient evidence that exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of an infant's life is nutritionally adequate.

An extensive body of scientific evidence indicates that breastfed infants are less likely to develop gastrointestinal, respiratory and urinary tract infections. A list of key research references that underpin the Department's policy has been placed in the Library.

Carers

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government are taking to ensure that carers are included in care plans and receive support to help them provide care; [70777]

(2) if he will take steps to improve the provision of training for carers. [70778]

Paul Burstow: The Community Care Assessment Directions 2004 place existing good practice and guidance on conducting care assessments and care planning into a legal framework. These directions are covered by local authority circular, LAC (2004)24.

The directions explicitly state that when carrying out a community care assessment, a local authority must, where appropriate, provide information to carers, consult with them and take reasonable steps to reach agreement with the person and their carer on the community care services they are considering providing to meet assessed needs.

The Law Commission report, published on 10 May 2011, devotes a chapter to considering carers' legislation, and the area is a major theme throughout.

Across the recommendations, the key principle is to try to achieve parity between carers and people who use services. To do so, the report makes specific recommendations in relation to carer assessments, carers services, eligibility criteria and young carers.

In respect of care plans in particular, recommendation 30 says that there should be a duty on local authorities to ensure the production of a care and support plan for people with assessed eligible needs (including carers).

The Government are considering all the recommendations together as part of designing our approach to law reform. We plan to set out our legislative approach at the time of the Care and Support White Paper in spring 2012. This will respond to the Law Commission's report.

The training materials, which comprised the former Caring with Confidence training course are available on the Carers Direct website for carers to access. Resources from Caring with Confidence were re-invested across 11 projects, which included:

£1.8 million funding to a range of voluntary sector organisations supporting carers including the Afiya Trust, in recognition of the particular needs and challenges faced by carers from ethnic minority communities;

over £1 million funding for training and carer awareness raising for key health and social professionals, including general practitioners (GPs) and their practice staff; and

£1.35 million funding for a grant scheme aimed at encouraging bids from patient-led and condition related organisations wishing to do more to support carers by reaching out to people who do not necessarily see themselves as carers. We received over 270 bids from a wide range of organisations and plan to fund over 80 organisations who were successful bidders.

In addition, we are investing over £800,000 in 2010-11 in a range of activities to support training and awareness raising for GPs and practice staff on carers issues.

Chlamydia: Testing

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provides for testing young people for chlamydia; how many young people *(a)* were tested and *(b)* tested positive in (i) England and (ii) Gloucestershire in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [70694]

Anne Milton: The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) which was launched in 2003, provides opportunistic testing for chlamydia for 15 to 24-year-olds. In 2010-11, £1,626,000 was allocated to the Health Protection Agency to run the NCSP.

The Department also makes recurrent revenue allocations direct to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of a national weighted capitation formula which is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources. The components of the formula are used to weight each PCT's population according to their relative need (age and additional need) for health care and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing health care (the market forces factor).

PCT recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by policy or service area. Once allocated, it is for PCTs to commission the services they require, including chlamydia testing, to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of both local and national priorities.

Information on the number of chlamydia tests and diagnoses in those 15 to 24 years of age is shown in the following table.

Community Data (NCSP and Non NCSP Non GUM) April 2010 to March 2011. GUM data January 2010 to December 2010

	Community Chlamydia Testing Data (NCSP + non NCSP, non GUM)	*Positive tests reported from the Community Chlamydia Testing Data (NCSP + non NCSP, non GUM)*	*% of Community tests positive*	*Chlamydia tests reported to GUM*	*Positive tests reported from GUM*	*% of GUM tests positive*
Gloucestershire PCT	16,396	1,003	6.1	3,788	518	13.7

Community Data (NCSP and Non NCSP Non GUM) April 2010 to March 2011, GUM data January 2010 to December 2010

	Community Chlamydia Testing Data (NCSP + non NCSP, non GUM)	*Positive tests reported from the Community Chlamydia Testing Data (NCSP + non NCSP, non GUM)*	*% of Community tests positive*	*Chlamydia tests reported to GUM*	*Positive tests reported from GUM*	*% of GUM tests positive*
England	1,733,220	90,567	5.2	500,311	57,167	11.4

Notes:

1. Data presented are the number of chlamydia tests and diagnoses reported and not the number of people tested or diagnosed.

2. Data are presented for Gloucestershire PCT and England only.

GUM clinic returns: GUMCAD (Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset):

1. Numbers of tests and diagnoses are adjusted for missing GUM clinic data in 2010.

2. Data are sourced from the GUMCAD report (2010). Due to different data collection and publication dates, GUMCAD data presented is one quarter behind the NCSP data.

3. GUM clinic chlamydia diagnoses include C4A and C4B and C4C (complicated and uncomplicated chlamydia) only.

4. The chlamydia tests reported are from sexual health screens performed at GUM clinics which include testing for Chlamydia,

Community Chlamydia Testing Data:

1. The NCSP offers opportunistic chlamydia screening to those aged 15 to 24 years attending a variety of non-GUM clinic settings. NCSP figures therefore include diagnoses among 15 to 24-year-olds only.

2. Data presented are based on all tests with confirmed positive chlamydia test results including partners/contacts as well as index cases.

3. The NCSP also collects data from laboratories on numbers of diagnoses made in those aged 15 to 24 years tested outside registered NCSP settings and GUM clinics.

4. Reporting of "Non-NCSP/Non-GUM" returns began in April 2008.

5. Numbers of tests and diagnoses are not adjusted for missing Non-NCSP/Non-GUM data in 2011.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, GUMCAD returns, NCSP returns, Non NCSP Non GUM returns Date of data: 8 September 2011

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to support people living with myalgic encephalomyelitis. [70719]

Paul Burstow: Responsibility for meeting the health needs of those living with long-term neurological conditions, including chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) rests with local health bodies. They are expected to implement the guidance produced by the National Institute for Heath and Clinical Excellence on CFS/ME, as well as the more general guidance on neurological conditions, the National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions, produced by the Department.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition of myalgic encephalopathy his Department uses; and how it categorises the condition. [71237]

Paul Burstow: The report of the CFS/ME Working Group to the chief medical officer, in January 2002, suggested that the composite term chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) be used as an umbrella term for this condition, or spectrum of disease.

This term is used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for their clinical guidelines, which also provide a definition of this condition for health professionals.

The Department classes CFS/ME as a long-term neurological disease of unknown cause.

Health Services: Older People

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role he proposes for clinical audits in assisting commissioning bodies to *(a)* identify the reasons for emergency readmissions of patients aged over 65 years of age and *(b)* evaluate the effectiveness of post-discharge planning. [70319]

Mr Simon Burns: All national health service organisations should use appropriate indicators to monitor and seek to improve the quality of the care which they are commissioning or providing.

Available indicators include various measures of the rates of emergency readmission following specific procedures, and an indicator of the proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into rehabilitation services. Where these high-level indicators show cause for concern, more detailed local clinical audit may be helpful in identifying the possible underlying causes. In line with the Government's commitment to greater transparency in the information available on the outcomes of patient care, providers are encouraged to share appropriate data from clinical audit with their commissioners.

Hepatitis: Ethnic Groups

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the prevalence rate is of Hepatitis C by ethnic origin. [71084]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency estimates that, in 2005, 0.54%, of the adult population in England had antibody to hepatitus C (HCV).

Data on the prevalence of HCV by ethnic origin are limited, however some studies in England have found that individuals who originate from the Indian sub-continent are among those at increased risk of hepatitis C infection. Research jointly funded by the Hepatitis C Trust and the Department, published in 2010, indicated that 1.6% of people of south Asian origin had evidence of hepatitis C infection. The corresponding rate for people born in Pakistan was 2.7%.

HIV Infection: Drugs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the treatment of HIV-infected patients with the Gc protein-derived macrophage activating factor; and if he will make a statement. [70905]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated research specifically on the treatment of HIV-infected patients with the Gc Protein-Derived Macrophage Activating Factor.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research is currently funding a £2 million randomised controlled trial of a protease inhibitor monotherapy versus continuing combination antiretroviral therapy for HIV-1 infected patients previously established on a dual nucleoside and non-nucleoside combination regimen.

Hospices: Finance

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with primary care trusts on funding for hospices; and if he will make a statement; [70628]

(2) what guidance he has provided to primary care trusts on funding for hospices; and if he will make a statement; [70629]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that hospices receive adequate funding; what plans he has for the future of hospice funding; and if he will make a statement; [70631]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of introducing a national tariff for hospice care; and if he will make a statement. [70632]

Paul Burstow: The Department's "End of Life Care Strategy" (2008) makes clear the responsibilities of the national health service to ensure adequate support for hospices, including through stronger commissioning and adhering to the principles of the "Compact Code of Good Practice". The Department made £286 million additional funding available to help implement the strategy over 2009-10 and 2010-11. Hospices were in a good position to work with the NHS to secure some of this funding to deliver many of the initiatives recommended in the strategy. As part of this funding, the Department made available a £40 million capital budget for hospices in 2010-11 to support improvements to the care environment.

As part of the development of the strategy, a review was undertaken of specialist palliative care spend by primary care trusts (PCTs). This was published alongside the strategy, and provided useful data for PCTs to benchmark their levels of specialist palliative care provision. This exercise has been repeated for 2010-11, and will be published shortly.

We have made a commitment to review payment systems to support end of life care, including exploring options for per-patient funding to meet the commitment in the coalition agreement. This work has been taken forward by the independent Palliative Care Funding Review, which reported on 1 July. The recommendations of the review will influence decisions on future funding policies for dedicated palliative care services, whoever provides them. We are currently considering these recommendations in detail and expect to engage with stakeholders on this later this year before running pilots.

We have had no recent discussions with, nor provided any guidance to, PCTs specifically on funding for hospices.

Learning Disability

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to commission organisations with expertise in communication aids and assistive technology to advise families and agencies on the opportunities such services provide for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [70770]

Paul Burstow: There are no plans at present to provide information about communication aids and assistive technology.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will refer the prescribing of Avastin to treat wet age-related macular degeneration to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [70741]

Mr Simon Burns: Avastin (bevacizumab) is not licensed for use in the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has conducted work with stakeholders to explore the feasibility of appraising Avastin for the treatment of eye conditions and submitted a report of its findings to the Department in 2010. The report is available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/ourguidance/niceguidancebytype/technology appraisals/proposedappraisals/ bevacizumabineyeconditions.jsp

We have no immediate plans to refer this topic to NICE for appraisal, but will keep this position under review.

NHS

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role he proposes for befriending services in the NHS. [70320]

Paul Burstow: People supported by community care services can often feel socially isolated and lonely. Befriending services provide people in this situation with opportunities for social interaction and a sense of being part of a community. These services can be particularly helpful for people recovering from a mental illness, older people, people on the autistic spectrum, and those accessing palliative care.

Our goal is to give local communities a much greater say in determining local arrangements for assisting and supporting national health service patients. The new local HealthWatch will make its own decisions about what is needed locally—whether and how to make the best use of local people to respond to the needs of patients both in hospitals and in community settings. This builds on the existing powers of local authorities and local health bodies to commission both advocacy and befriending services.

NHS: Finance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much income the NHS received from *(a)* Bounty and Patientline/Hospedia, *(b)* each of the top five by income partner organisations and *(c)* other third party organisations in each year since 1997. [70755]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information on national health service income received from individual companies in respect of local contracts with NHS organisations, including Bounty and Hospedia (formerly Patientline).

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect revenue the NHS received from parking charges in each year since 1997. [70758]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested as the Department does not hold data on direct and indirect revenue the national health service received from parking charges. However, the Department did historically collect some data on income from staff, patient and visitors from parking charges.

From 2001-02 to 2007-08, the Department collected annual data from national health service trusts on car parking provision and any associated charges, through the Estates Returns Information Collection. In 2004-05, the collection of these data was moved from a mandatory to a voluntary basis. In order to lessen the burden on the NHS to provide central returns, the collection of voluntary data items ceased after the 2007-08 period and therefore the collection of data on car parking was discontinued after the 2007-08 collection period. The Department does not hold data on this subject after that period.

The data which are available for each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08 are shown in the following table:

Total income from staff, patients and visitors

	£ million
2001-02	60
2002-03	72
2003-04	83
2004-05	78
2005-06	98
2006-07	102
2007-08	112

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

The provision of hospital car parking and any associated charges are decided locally by individual trusts to help cover the cost of running, maintaining and securing a car park. All NHS trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors. Local policies should include fair concessions for all patients whose health care needs require extended or frequent access to hospital. Patients on low incomes are entitled to recover travel costs, including car parking charges, under the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme.

Obesity: Children

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to reduce levels of childhood obesity; and what recent progress has been made in reducing those levels. [71261]

Anne Milton: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Redditch (Karen Lumley) on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 582-83W.

Palliative Care: Standards

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the quality of hospice and palliative care provision in England. [70630]

Paul Burstow: We are committed to improving the quality of all services provided to patients, including those approaching the end of life. The Mandate and National Health Service Outcomes Framework will drive quality improvement throughout the NHS.

The end of life care Quality Standard being developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will set out the evidence-based characteristics of a high quality service for end of life care, which will help commissioners and providers to improve the quality of services.

We are commissioning a national survey to ask bereaved relatives about the deceased's experience of care, as well as asking them about their own experience. The survey, which should be complete by March 2012, will inform a new indicator on end of life care within the patient experience domain of the NHS Outcomes Framework, as well as informing local service improvement activity.

We have made no recent assessment of the quality of hospice and palliative care provision.

Pregnancy: Death

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the number of deaths of women from conditions directly or indirectly related to pregnancy. [71082]

Anne Milton: There has been a significant reduction in the United Kingdom's maternal death rate—from 13.95 per 100,000 maternities in the triennium 2003-05 to 11.39 in 2006-08.

The Department has made the provision of safe, high quality maternity services, focused on improving outcomes for women and babies, a priority in the NHS Outcomes Framework for 2011-12.

The Department encourages early access to maternity services and has included the maternity 12-week early access indicator as one of the measures for quality in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12. This will enable those women who can be identified as being at increased risk of complications to receive additional support and monitoring from an early stage.

Private Finance Initiative: Suffolk

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the outstanding private finance initiative debts are for *(a)* Ipswich Hospital, *(b)* the West Suffolk Hospital and *(c)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust; [70634]

(2) what the outstanding future financial liabilities are for *(a)* Ipswich Hospital, *(b)* the West Suffolk Hospital and *(c)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust. [70635]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the total amount owed by each organisation in respect of bank overdrafts, current and long term loans, obligations under finance leases, private finance initiative (PFI) and Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) arrangements, is shown in the following table.

NHS Future Financial Liabilities as at 31 March 2010

	2009-10 (£000)
Suffolk Primary Care Trust	86
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	45,249
West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust	3,554

Source:
Audited Summarisation Schedules, 2009-10

Outstanding future financial liabilities' could be interpreted in a number of ways in relation to the finances of national health service organisations. We have interpreted this to mean the total amount reported by each NHS organisation in their Statement of Financial Position in respect of bank overdrafts, current and long term loans, obligations under finance leases, PFI and LIFT arrangements. These are the items most readily identified with the term 'financial liabilities' in accounting terminology.

The figure for Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust includes a liability on the trust's books in respect of a PFI hospital of £28,642,000. Under international financial reporting standards, PFI assets are recorded on the Statement of Financial Position with a corresponding liability.

Information on the annual Unitary Payments made under every signed health sector PFI contract over the lifetime of the contract can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
pfi_signed_projects_list_march2011.xls

The health sector schemes are clearly marked "DH-Acute (i.e. Hospitals)"—that for Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust has the Project ID number 315. As described above, there are no PFI schemes at West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust or Suffolk Primary Care Trust. The table includes information on payments already made (i.e. for financial years preceding 2011-12) and estimated for the remaining contract period.

The Unitary Payment is paid by the national health service body to the private sector counterparty to the contract and covers all the services provided under the contract—initial construction, so the capital costs (repayment of principal and financing); building maintenance; and in many cases the non-clinical support services such as cleaning, laundry, catering, portering and security. The payments are subject to meeting agreed performance and quality standards and the estimated amounts include an annual uprate assumption for inflation of 2.5% for future years.

Transplant Surgery: Reading

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Reading West constituency were assessed as needing an organ transplant in each of the last five years. [70887]

Anne Milton: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Reading West constituency solid organ transplant list statistics, by financial year

	Status	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Number on waiting list at the start of the year	Active	21	20	18	17	15
	Suspended	3	3	7	5	7
New recipient registrations	Active	7	4	9	11	—

Notes:
1. 'Active' means the patient is currently in a state to receive a transplant.
2. 'Suspended' means they are temporarily unable to receive a transplant (though they ultimately need one) as they are too ill, away, etc.
Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Varicose Veins: Health Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has been issued to health trusts on the provision by the NHS of endovenous laser treatment; and if he will make a statement. [70904]

Mr Simon Burns: Guidance is available from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the safety and efficacy of endovenous laser treatment of the long saphenous vein, and on the circumstances in which general practitioners should consider referring patients with varicose veins to specialist services. The Department's elective care commissioning pathway for varicose veins, published in 2009, refers to NICE's referral guidance and to the use of endovenous laser treatment as a possible alternative to surgery for some patients.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 September 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Union: Legislative Competence

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which powers he is seeking to repatriate from the European Union. [70540]

Mr Lidington: As set out in the coalition agreement, the Government are committed to examining the balance of the EU's existing competences and working to limit the application of the working time directive in the United Kingdom.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the First Minister of Scotland and *(b)* other Ministers in the Scottish Government on the possible return to the UK of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi since 1 February 2011. [70116]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had no contacts with the First Minister of Scotland or other Minister of the Scottish Executive on the possible return to the UK of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi since 1 February 2011. The decision to release Mr al-Megrahi was one for the Scottish Executive alone to take, as would be any decision to request his return.

Moussa Koussa

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whose authorisation was given for Moussa Koussa to leave the United Kingdom. [70981]

Alistair Burt: Moussa Koussa did not require authorisation to leave the UK. He was not in detention in the UK but was here as a private individual.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government made arrangements with the authorities in Qatar for Moussa Koussa to go to Doha. [70983]

Alistair Burt: No. Mr Koussa's entry into Doha was a matter for him and the Qatari authorities.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Moussa Koussa is expected to return to the United Kingdom. [70984]

Alistair Burt: All foreign nationals are subject to compliance with the immigration rules but we cannot discuss the details of an individual's case. Nor can we comment on Mr Moussa Koussa's possible future movements.

War Crimes

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on an independent commission of inquiry into war crimes in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [71377]

Mr Bellingham: We are not aware of any current UN proposal for an Independent Commission of Inquiry for Somalia.

We believe it is right that international efforts at this time remain focused on the Djibouti Peace Process, and on ending the transition in August 2012, in order to secure longer-term stability in Somalia. In this context, we welcome the adoption in Mogadishu on 6 September of a roadmap for progress over the next year and are urging the Transitional Federal Institutions to keep to the commitments contained within that roadmap. Those commitments include the prevention of the presence of children in the armed forces and efforts to improve protection of civilians from all armed violence. The British Government are also exploring ways in which we can support the African Union Mission in Somalia to minimise the risk to civilians when they defend themselves from insurgent attack.

WALES

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of written questions tabled to her for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71134]

Mr David Jones: Between the dates of *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 the Wales Office received 48 written questions tabled for answer on a named day, of which two did not receive a substantive answer on the named day.

Between the dates of *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011 the Wales Office received 12 written questions tabled for answer on a named day, all of which were answered on the named day.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Discrimination

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take to raise awareness of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. [57645]

Lynne Featherstone: This Government are committed to advancing equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) people, both in the UK and internationally. It is clear that too many LGB&T people still face discrimination and the Government are committed to addressing this.

That is why, in March 2011, the Government published "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward", which outlines evidence of discrimination and the targeted action that Government will take in a number of areas of public policy including education, workplaces, hate crime, sport and our international work.

The Government will continue to engage with a range of employers, service providers, public sector bodies, voluntary and community sector groups and individuals to ensure that discrimination against LGB&T people is tackled at all levels.

Driving: Age Discrimination

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she plans to grant the car rental industry an opt-out clause from the age discrimination provisions of the Equality Act 2010 similar to that provided to the financial services industry. [70644]

Lynne Featherstone: We are currently considering the issue and will announce our decision in the Government's published response to the recent age discrimination consultation in due course.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the potential cost to the car rental industry of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 relating to age discrimination. [70646]

Lynne Featherstone: My officials have discussed estimates with the car rental industry. Any costs would be dependent on the Government's decision which is under consideration and will be announced in our response to the recent consultation.

Equality

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what proportion of respondents to the Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: reducing bureaucracy consultation were in favour of the Government's revised draft regulations. [64507]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 7 July 2011]*: There were 189 responses to the policy review. A summary of the responses received is included in the Explanatory Memorandum published alongside the draft specific duties regulations on 27 June 2011. The discursive nature of the responses means that giving exact proportions in favour or against is not possible. But in general terms:

> virtually all respondents supported the stated aims of reducing unnecessary processes and bureaucracy, and promoting greater transparency and accountability;
>
> there was also widespread agreement that the revised regulations would achieve the first of these aims;
>
> there was a more mixed response in regard to the latter aim. Around 40% of the public bodies supported the proposed approach, while around 80% of respondents overall raised concerns of one sort or another.

The Government strongly believe the approach set out in the policy review is the right approach, and that the draft regulations strike the right balance between prescription and flexibility. This approach will help public bodies comply with the Equality Duty and understand what constitutes good practice through guidance, not regulation.

But we have listened to the concerns raised and will review the operation of the regulations in two years' time, to ensure they are delivering the transparency and accountability we expect.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many face-to-face assessments scheduled by Atos Healthcare have been *(a)* cancelled by Atos and *(b)* missed by benefit applicants in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [70796]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare arranges over 1 million medical appointments each year and appointments are only cancelled by Atos Healthcare when necessary to minimise any inconvenience or prolonged waiting time for the claimant. Atos Healthcare always aims to provide good notice to claimants of a cancellation.

Atos Healthcare is also working with the DWP to improve the level of claimants who do not attend their appointments, and the figures indicate improvements have been seen recently.

Month	*Cancelled by Atos*	*Claimant did not attend*
September 2010	15,550	22,350
October 2010	14,850	22,600
November 2010	18,350	24,400
December 2010	16,350	22,250
January 2011	15,900	24,650
February 2011	16,550	21,700
March 2011	16,250	21,300
April 2011	11,700	14,950
May 2011	11,550	17,000
June 2011	17,800	17,650
July 2011	21,400	16,350
August 2011	16,900	12,550

Source:
Atos Healthcare—(these figures are rounded to the nearest 50)

Carer's Allowance

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to amend the overlapping benefit rules which prevent simultaneous payment of carer's allowance and retirement pension. [71401]

Steve Webb: We have no plans to do so.

Carer's allowance has always been subject to the overlapping benefits rules which ensure that only one benefit at a time can be paid for the same purpose.

Carer's allowance and state pension overlap because they both provide a replacement income. Carer's allowance provides a measure of financial support for people who forgo the opportunity of full-time employment in order to care for a severely disabled person. State pension replaces income in retirement.

Although an entitlement to both benefits will mean that carer's allowance is not payable, or not payable in full, an underlying entitlement to carer's allowance gives access to the carer premium, currently £31, in housing benefit and council tax benefit and an additional amount at the same rate in pension credit.

Child Maintenance

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to amend the Child Support (Information, Evidence and Disclosure) Regulations 1992 to enable the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to confirm a child's attendance with a school or college in order to verify the parent with carer's entitlement to child benefit. [70697]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan, dated 8 September 2011:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has any plans to amend the Child Support (Information Evidence and Disclosure) Regulations 1992 to enable the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to confirm a child's attendance with a school or college in order to verify the parent with care's entitlement to child benefit. [70697]

The Child Support (Information Evidence and Disclosure) Regulations 1992 were replaced by the Child Support Information Regulations 2008. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) has no plans to amend these regulations as mentioned in the question.

Under child support legislation, children under the age of 16 are considered a child for child maintenance purposes regardless of their attendance at a school or college. However, for children between the ages of 16 and 19, the criterion used for deciding whether they are considered a qualifying child for child maintenance purposes is if child benefit is in payment for that child.

Whilst matters relating to child maintenance are the responsibility of the Commission; matters relating to the entitlement and payment of child benefit are the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) provided for a new child maintenance scheme. The Commission is developing plans for the new child maintenance scheme and the 2008 Act provides for the maximum age of a child under the new scheme to be 20 years of age, which will align with the maximum age for the payment of Child Benefit and Child Tax Credits. Detailed rules about the new scheme will be contained in regulations which will be subject to public consultation before the new scheme goes live. The consultation process will be publicly announced, although the date for this process to begin is still to be confirmed.

Where a child benefit claim is cancelled with retrospective effect, then the Commission, upon notification, can close the case from the date that the child benefit claim ceased, and the Commission can then consider, refunding, the non-resident parent or reducing any arrears balance as appropriate. Additionally, if the non-resident parent believes that child benefit is not lawfully in payment, they should contact HMRC who may investigate this claim.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Cold Weather Payments

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria trigger the payment of cold weather payments; which vulnerable groups qualify for these payments; and whether the level of cold weather payments has increased since May 2010. [70782]

Steve Webb: Cold weather payments are made for each period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March. A network of weather stations covering the whole of Great Britain gathers temperature information. A payment of £25 is made when the average temperature at the weather station linked to the claimant's postcode is, or is forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days.

The qualifying benefits are: pension credit, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and income-related employment and support allowance. Those in receipt of income-related employment and support allowance in the assessment phase, income support, or income-based jobseeker's allowance must have a pensioner or disability premium, a child who is disabled, or a child under the age of five.

The rate of cold weather payments was permanently increased to £25 per period of very cold weather from 1 November 2010.

Further information on cold weather payments is available on the direct.gov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/On_a_low_income/DG_10018668

Statistics for the number of payments by Met Office weather station for winter 2010-11 are available in the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Annual Report on the Social Fund, which is available through the Department for Work and Pensions website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/2011-annual-report-social-fund.pdf

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71141]

Chris Grayling: The number of written questions tabled to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for answer on a named day; *(a)* between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 was 1,061 of which 41 (3.86%) did not receive a substantive answer on the named day, and *(b)* between 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011 was 360 of which 14 (3.89%) did not receive a substantive answer on the named day.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Employment

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many of the households which have never included an adult in work he expects an adult to enter employment by 2015. [71676]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not produce labour market forecasts. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility has forecast a net increase of around 1 million in total employment between 2011 and 2015, but does not break down its forecasts by household type.

The latest estimate published by the Office for National Statistics is that in April-June 2011, among UK households including at least one person aged 16 to 64 years, 370,000 households (1.8% of the total) contained no-one who had ever worked. A household is defined as having never worked if all adult members are not currently in employment and state that they have never had paid work (apart from casual or holiday work, or a job they are waiting to begin).

The number of households where no-one has ever worked illustrates part of the wider problems of workless households and long-term unemployment that the UK currently faces. The Government are committed to tackling these urgent problems. This is why we launched the Work programme this summer, which will give tailor made support to help people get off benefits and into work, and through universal credit we are overhauling the benefits system to ensure that people are always better off in work.

We have also begun to reassess 1.6 million of the people who claim incapacity benefits to see if they are fit for work. Around 10,000 people a week are being asked to take part in a process that will focus on what they can do, not what they cannot. In return we will give them the specialist help they need to get back to work.

Incapacity Benefits: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Great Britain, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* York (i) applied for incapacity benefit, (ii) were required to attend a personal capability assessment, (iii) had their incapacity benefit refused following an assessment and (iv) had their incapacity benefit reinstated following a review or appeal in the latest 12-month period for which information is available. [71456]

Chris Grayling: Since October 2008, new claims to incapacity benefits have been made to employment and support allowance so the only flows to old-style incapacity benefits—incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA)—have been from linked claims. Information on flows to incapacity benefits and other benefits can be found on the Department's tabulation tool at the following link:

http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_on/tabtool.html

For example, the following link shows flows onto old-style incapacity benefits for people of working age by region. This shows the number of flows in the year to February 2011 was 26,500 in Great Britain, of which 2,050 were in Yorkshire and the Humber.

http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_on/ibsda/cdquarter/ccgor/ccclient/a_carate_r_cdquarter_c_ccgor_p_ccclient_working_age.html

The number of flows on to old-style incapacity benefits in York unitary authority is around 60. This is calculated from further breakdowns available using the tabulation tool.

Information tracking people claiming old-style incapacity benefits and what happened to them at the personal capability assessment (PCA) is held only from October 2008 onwards. At this stage most assessments related to existing longer-term incapacity benefit claims and not new incapacity benefit claims, (i.e. repeat PCAs and not the initial PCA). We have therefore presented information relating to both initial and repeat PCAs combined.

Table 1 shows information on the number and outcomes of PCAs carried out between March 2010 and February 2011 (the latest data available). Note that the information in Table 1 cannot be directly compared to data on new claims to IB as the data contain information on repeat PCAs which make up the vast majority of PCAs carried out in this time period.

Table 1: Personal capability assessments outcomes, March 2010 to February 2011

	PCA exempt	*Disallowed at PCA*	*Pass PCA*	*Total*
Great Britain	37,700	47,500	184,400	269,600
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,200	2,400	6,200	9,700
York unitary authority	0	100	100	200

Notes:
1. The information in the table is from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 claims and totals may not sum due to rounding.

Table 2 shows information on appeals that have been heard relating to PCAs carried out between March 2010 and February 2011 (as in Table 1). The Department holds information on appeals only once they have been heard by the Tribunals Service. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely there are more appeals that have not yet been heard, so the number of appeals is likely to change as more up to date information becomes available.

Table 2: Appeals heard for PCAs completed between March 2010 and February 2011 by decision made by the Tribunals Service

	Decision in favour of appellant	*Decision upheld*	*Total*
Great Britain	5,200	6,100	11,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	100	200	300
York unitary authority	0	0	0

Notes:
1. The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 claims and totals may not sum due to rounding.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Females

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women claimed jobseeker's allowance in Coventry in the latest period for which figures are available. [70702]

Chris Grayling: The stock number of female jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants in Coventry, recorded in July 2011, is as follows:

	Number
Total female claimants receiving JSA in Coventry	3,332

Notes:
1. Data taken from 100% count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems
2. Figures include clerically held cases
3. Caseload data is unrounded
4. Data are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Members: Correspondence

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. and learned Member for Camberwell and Peckham of 27 July 2011 concerning the proposed closure of Camberwell Jobcentre Plus. [71586]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the right hon. and learned Member on 5 August 2011.

National Employment Savings Trust Scheme

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to allow transfers in to National Employment Savings Trust pensions before the 2017 review. [71151]

Steve Webb: The independent 'Making Automatic Enrolment Work'[1] review, which reported last October, recognised that facilitating transfers is critical to the success of reforms. The review concluded that these issues are not restricted to how transfer rules apply to NEST, but apply across the pensions market. The review also recognised the importance of the transfer restrictions on NEST during the roll-out of the reforms and recommended that the Government address the issue of transfers with a view to relaxing the restrictions on NEST once the reforms were fully rolled out.

The Government agree with the review's conclusions and we are currently working with stakeholders to consider the wider issues of facilitating transfers. We will publish proposals on how issues arising from short service refunds rules, small pots and transfers might be addressed in the autumn.

[1] Making automatic enrolment work: a review for the Department of Work and Pensions. 2010. Department for Work and Pensions. Cm 7954

Pensioners: Jarrow

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on how much per capita his Department has spent on pensioners in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [70097]

Steve Webb: Parliamentary constituency, local authority and regional expenditure data are not available for all benefits. Details of benefits included in the per capita calculations in the following tables can be found in the footnotes. DWP is not responsible for Northern Ireland spending. Therefore we are unable to show expenditure per capita for the UK. We have shown per capita expenditure for Great Britain.

Table 1: Annual per capita expenditure for all benefits paid to pensioners (Great Britain)[1]

	Per capita expenditure (£)	
	2009-10	2010-11
Great Britain	8,100	8,200

Table 2: Annual per capita expenditure for all benefits recorded at local authority level paid to pensioners[2]

	Per capita expenditure (£)	
	2009-10	2010-11
South Tyneside	8,400	8,600
North-east	8,100	8,200
Great Britain	7,900	8,100

Table 3: Annual per capita expenditure for all benefits recorded at parliamentary constituency level paid to pensioners[3]

	Per capita expenditure (£)	
	2009-10	2010-11
Jarrow	7,500	[4]—
South Tyneside	7,600	7,700
North East	7,300	7,500
Great Britain	7,400	7,500

[1] Includes all benefits paid to pensioners: attendance allowance, bereavement benefit/widow's benefit, carer's allowance, council tax benefit, housing benefit, disability living allowance, pension credit, state pension, winter fuel payments, Christmas bonus, industrial injuries benefits, income support, over 75 TV licences, social fund, state second pension, and severe disablement allowance.

[2] Includes all benefit paid to pensioners where data are available at local authority level: attendance allowance, bereavement benefit/widow's benefit, carer's allowance, council tax benefit, housing benefit, disability living allowance, pension credit, state pension and winter fuel payments.

[3] Includes all benefit paid to pensioners where data are available at parliamentary constituency level: attendance allowance, bereavement benefit/widow's benefit, carer's allowance, disability living allowance, pension credit, state pension and winter fuel payments.

[4] Population data at parliamentary constituency level are not available for 2010-11 until October 2011.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.
2. Housing benefit and council tax benefit data are not available by parliamentary constituency.
3. Expenditure data for 2010-11 are based on latest estimates of outturn.

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data and ONS population estimates.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the north-east and *(d)* nationwide were in receipt of pension credit in each year since its inception. [70418]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table:

Household recipients of pension credit in the Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside, the north-east and Great Britain

As at February each year	Jarrow parliamentary constituency	South Tyneside local authority	North-east	Great Britain
2004	4,980	9,660	135,940	2,282,040
2005	5,760	11,150	155,420	2,654,210
2006	5,870	11,380	157,420	2,708,970
2007	5,880	11,350	157,600	2,730,480
2008	5,890	11,200	156,460	2,722,780
2009	5,860	11,220	156,140	2,723,310
2010	5,950	11,360	157,550	2,734,940
2011	5,970	11,070	154,630	2,693,720

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003.
3. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner.
4. These data are available on the Department's tabulation tool at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
5. Northern Ireland data are the responsibility of the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners were living in relative poverty in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997; [70447]

(2) how many and what proportion of pensioners were living in absolute poverty in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997. [70448]

Steve Webb: The most commonly used measure of pensioner poverty relates to those with incomes below 60% of contemporary median income, After Housing Costs. This is often referred to as relative poverty.

An alternative measure of poverty uses the 1998-99 median income held constant in real terms, as opposed to the contemporary median. This is often referred to as absolute poverty.

Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at regional level. Therefore, information is available for the North East region, but not available for Jarrow or South Tyneside.

Three-year averages are used to report regional statistics as single-year estimates are subject to volatility.

The first table shows the number and percentage of pensioners living in households in the North East of England with relative and absolute low incomes, After Housing Costs, for three year periods spanning 1997-98 to 2009-10, which is the latest year for which figures are available.

The second table shows the number and percentage of pensioners in the UK in relative and absolute low income, After Housing Costs in each year since 1997-98. In 1997-98 the figures refer to Great Britain only. Thereafter, the figures are for the United Kingdom.

Table 1: Number and proportion of pensioners in the North East of England in low income according to relative and absolute measures, After Housing Costs

	Relative low income		*Absolute low income*	
Three year period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.1	31	0.1	30
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.1	31	0.1	26
1999-2000 to 01-02	0.1	28	0.1	20
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.1	27	0.1	14
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.1	23	—	10
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.1	20	—	8
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.1	17	—	7
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.1	17	—	6
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.1	19	—	7
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.1	18	—	7
2007-08 to 2009-10	0.1	17	—	8

Table 2: Number and proportion of pensioners nationwide in low income according to relative and absolute measures, After Housing Costs

	Relative low income		*Absolute low income*	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
1997-98	2.9	29	3.0	31
1998-99	2.9	29	2.9	29
1999-2000	2.8	28	2.5	25
2000-01	2.7	26	2.0	20
2001-02	2.7	26	1.5	14
2002-03	2.5	24	1.2	12
2003-04	2.2	21	1.1	10
2004-05	1.9	18	0.9	8
2005-06	1.8	17	0.8	8
2006-07	2.1	19	1.1	10
2007-08	2.0	18	1.0	9
2008-09	1.8	16	1.0	9
2009-10	1.8	16	0.9	8

'—' = Indicates less than 50,000 pensioners.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. Family Resources Survey figures are for Great Britain up to 1997-98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99 onwards.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on an After Housing Cost basis. For After Housing Costs, housing costs are deducted from income.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
6. Numbers of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners.
7. Proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to end short service refunds. [71152]

Steve Webb: The Government ran a call for evidence on regulatory differences which included short service refunds. The call closed on 18 April and the Government published their initial response on 27 June. Short service refund rules provide a valuable easement for employers and schemes to manage small pension pots.

But short service refunds in defined contribution schemes are inconsistent with automatic enrolment. With more people saving and higher job churn, the Government do not want to see some individuals missing out on building their pension pot because of the rules.

The Department will publish a full set of proposals on how Government intend to address the short service refunds rules, small pots and transfers in the autumn.

This will include a decision on short service refunds in DC occupational schemes and a consultation on options to address small pension pots.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-UK EU citizens who attempted to claim state pension in the UK without passing the habitual residence test. [71259]

Steve Webb: The UK state pension is a contributory benefit. It is payable worldwide to people who claim it after reaching state pension age and who satisfy the national insurance contribution conditions.

People do not need to satisfy the habitual residence test to get their state pension.

Pensions: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the City of York local authority area and *(b)* York Central constituency are in receipt of (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit; and what the average weekly value of pension credit received is in each case. [71437]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table:

State pension and pension credit recipients in the York local authority area and York Central parliamentary constituency

	State pension claimants	*Pension credit household recipients*	*Average weekly amount of pension credit (£)*
York local authority	37,690	6,480	48.97
York Central parliamentary constituency	15,350	3,810	49.99

Notes:

1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The state pension figure provided is the total state pension case load. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner.
4. Information is published on our tabulation tool at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Sick Leave: Musculoskeletal Disorders

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with musculoskeletal conditions living in each *(a)* region of England and *(b)* country in Great Britain were on long-term sick leave in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [70535]

Maria Miller: There are few reliable sources of sickness absence data in Great Britain. Employers pay statutory sick pay (and in some cases occupational sick pay) but are not required to submit this information to the Government unless they are seeking reimbursement for moneys paid under the percentage threshold scheme. Consequently there are no comprehensive centrally recorded administrative data. Sample sizes from survey data are also too small to address the specific question raised.

Social Fund: Funerals

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects Social Fund budgeting loans to be available to help relatives meet a family member's funeral expenses; and what criteria he plans to use to assess applicants. [71680]

Steve Webb: The provision that extends Social Fund budgeting loans to funeral and maternity expenses will come into force two months after Royal Assent is granted to the Welfare Reform Bill.

The criteria used to assess applications will be the existing budgeting loan criteria.

Social Security Benefits: Non-EU Nationals

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of benefits paid to non-EU immigrants was in each of the last eight years. [71104]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The UK's benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving benefits and therefore it is not possible to determine the cost of benefits paid to non-EU nationals. I have, however, commissioned work to make information available on the nationality of benefit claimants.

Access to income-related benefits[1] by non-European economic area nationals is strictly limited. They are excluded from such benefits because they are subject to immigration control, which prevents them from receiving public funds. Access to these benefits is therefore dependent on the type of leave the Home Office grants the individual.

Those who have worked in the UK and paid national insurance contributions may claim contributory benefits such as contribution-based jobseeker's allowance if they satisfy the contributions and other conditions for the benefit.

[1] Income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance; pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Offenders

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review the benefits paid to convicted criminals who reside in secure psychiatric hospitals. [71000]

Chris Grayling: Currently those detained in secure psychiatric hospitals who are sentenced and convicted criminals do not receive benefits. However, there are those who have not received a sentence who can, in certain circumstances, receive benefit. We are currently reviewing this policy.

Winter Fuel Payments: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in York with at least one person aged 75 years or over received the winter fuel allowance in 2010-11. [71439]

Steve Webb: Information for 2010-11 is not currently available.

The information is available in the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-2010 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender". This is available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

Working Tax Credit

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many couples with children who claim working tax credit and who work between 16 and 24 hours a week include at least one partner who claims *(a)* carers allowance, *(b)* disability living allowance, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* disability living allowance on behalf of a disabled child. [70470]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available. Neither the administrative datasets held by DWP, nor those held by HMRC, contain all the information needed to link receipt of working tax credit by the specified group with receipt of the benefits named in the question.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of people aged 60 and over in the Leeds West constituency who are eligible for the concessionary coach travel scheme. [71690]

Norman Baker: Data relating to the number of people aged 60 years and older who are eligible for the concessionary coach travel scheme are not available at a constituency level.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of people affected by the removal of the concessionary coach travel scheme. [71691]

Norman Baker: According to mid-2010 population estimates from the Office for National Statistics, there were 11,746,500 people aged 60 years and older who were eligible for the concessionary coach travel scheme in England.

The Department does not hold information on the number of people with a disability who are eligible for the concessionary coach travel scheme in England.

Bus Services: Theft

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to improve co-ordination and provision of information between National Express and other coach operators and police forces in cases of theft from coaches. [70664]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* Theft from coaches and the provision of information between coach operators and the police is a matter for the company involved and an operational matter for the relevant police force concerned.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by British Transport Police using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71220]

Mrs Villiers: I am able to confirm to the hon. Member that neither the British Transport Police nor the British Transport Police Authority used the Government Procurement Card between 2008-09 and 2009-10.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Mental Health

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General what training is provided to Crown Prosecution Service staff on dealing with people who have mental health disorders; and if he will make a statement. [71268]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has recently developed an online (e-learning) course on supporting victims and witnesses with mental health issues (as well as learning disabilities and autism). The course was launched in August 2011 and is mandatory for all prosecutors. In addition to this training, there is detailed guidance that sets out the practice and procedure to be followed when dealing with victims and witnesses with mental health issues. There is separate guidance to assist prosecutors when deciding whether to charge an offender who has a mental disorder.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General what support is provided by the Crown Prosecution Service to suspected offenders with mental health disorders; and if he will make a statement. [71269]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not have direct contact with suspected offenders and is not responsible for providing support to defendants. There are 'Liaison and Diversion' schemes in police stations and courts that screen defendants for mental health problems. Defendants who consent will be assessed and may be referred to appropriate services for treatment and support.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment is made by the Crown Prosecution Service of a person's mental health before decisions on whether to charge them are taken; and if he will make a statement. [71270]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not carry out its own assessment of the mental health of a suspect but may receive such information from a mental health liaison and diversion schemes based at police stations or courts or from other sources such as the police, relatives or offenders' solicitors. When there is sufficient reliable information about an offender's mental health, the CPS will take this into account when making the decision whether to charge. Evidence that the defendant has a significant physical or mental illness is a factor that the CPS will take into account when deciding if a prosecution is required in the public interest. However, the defendant's health must always be balanced with the seriousness of the offence and the need to safeguard the public.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71138]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

	Number of named day questions tabled	*Number answered substantially on the named day*	*Percentage not answered substantially on the named day*
(a) 27 May 2010-19 July 2011	66	60	9
(b) 9 March 2011-19 July 2011	18	17	6

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Attorney-General if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by the Crown Prosecution Service using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71219]

The Solicitor-General: Reports detailing Government Procurement Card transactions undertaken by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will be placed in the Library of the House. These reports cover the periods (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 and show *(a)* purchase dates, *(b)* transaction amounts and *(c)* suppliers.

The Department does not hold level 3 or enhanced transaction entry data centrally for individual transactions. Card holders do maintain manual records of the transactions they make which will include some level 3 equivalent data including item description. Providing this information would however involve checking individual records across the CPS which would incur disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71132]

Mr Paterson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Of the 34 questions received in this period, 31 (91%) were given a substantive answer on the day named.

(b) Of the 23 questions received in this period, 23 (100%) were given a substantive answer on the day named.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 Parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what efficiency savings in his Department's administrative budget *(a)* were delivered in 2010-11 and *(b)* are targeted in 2011-12. [71114]

David Mundell: The final administrative provision for the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate-General for 2010-11 was £7.889 million. Our actual expenditure was £7.66 million. For 2011-12, the administrative budget is £7.62 million.

To spend less than our allocated budget in 2010-11 we reduced on costs wherever possible, utilised framework contracts between suppliers and other Government bodies to achieve maximum savings and cancelled the contract for the ministerial car in London. To ensure we deliver the required savings in 2011-12 we are aiming to reduce accommodation costs by sharing space with other Government bodies, as well as investigating the possibility of sharing some back office functions with the other offices.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71133]

David Mundell: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Of the 177 questions received in this period, 167 (94%) were given a substantive answer on the day named.

(b) Of the 54 questions received in this period, 51 (94%) were given a substantive answer on the day named.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on implementing the Government's new strategy on human trafficking. [71115]

David Mundell: Policy responsibility for human trafficking rests with the Minister for Immigration. Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government and we are committed to tackling organised crime groups who profit from this human misery, and to protecting victims. There is an Inter-Departmental

Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking to co-ordinate work on trafficking across Government which includes Ministers from the devolved Administrations. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-autumn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Security

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, which postholder is responsible for the setting of the criteria for the issuing of security passes for access to the Parliamentary Estate for people who are not hon. Members, employees of hon. Members, or House of Commons staff; and to which areas such passes provide access. [71027]

John Thurso: The Speaker sets the criteria for the issuing of security passes for access to the parliamentary estate for people who are not hon. Members, employees of hon. Members, or House of Commons staff. He receives advice on this from the House of Commons Administration Committee. Passes that are issued allow the passholder access to the parliamentary estate.

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, which postholder authorised the opening of the Curtis Green entrance; who was consulted; what the cost to the public purse was of the opening; and what the purpose is of the opening. [71030]

John Thurso: The vehicle entrance at Derby Gate is scheduled to close from November for a period of about six months while works are carried out to install the perimeter security measures. The Curtis Green entrance offers the most practical solution for vehicles access and egress during the work. As the principal vehicle entry point, improvements to the existing entrance were needed. While upgrading the entrance, the opportunity was identified to improve traffic management in the long-term when Derby Gate re-opens by establishing a one-way traffic flow system. This one-way system has been in operation since the new facility was completed in August to resolve any problems in advance of Derby Gate's temporary closure. Planning consent was required, which included an assurance that there would not be disruption to the public road network. The business case for the Curtis Green entrance improvement works was approved in accordance with set procedures. Decisions on the authorisations of works and operations are made under delegations given by the House of Commons Commission, and in line with criteria set by Member Committees where appropriate. It is not the Commission's practice to publish names of individual staff who took particular decisions.

Subject to the agreement of the final account with the contractor, the total cost of the works to improve the Curtis Green entrance is estimated currently to be approximately £627,000.

As well as consultation among officials, letters were sent to all Members in Norman Shaw and billboards were posted in Portcullis House.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many people employed by contractors to work for the House of Commons service were issued with parliamentary passes in *(a)* 2001-02, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2010-11. [69744]

John Thurso: Our data retention policy means that we do not hold the data for 2001-02 and 2005-06, but we have the data for 2010-11. The number of contractors or people employed by contractors who held parliamentary passes valid during some or all of the period from 1 January 2010 to 9 September 2011 was as follows:

Type of pass	*Count*
PED contractors	2,015
PED contractor with escort status	363
Metropolitan Police Service	826
Postal services	66
Contractors to the House (restricted access)	574
Contractors to the House	92

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Countryside: Access

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hectares of land in *(a)* England and *(b)* North Yorkshire and York have been opened to the public under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. [71490]

Richard Benyon: The areas of land opened to the public under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 to date in England, North Yorkshire and York are shown in the following table.

Hectares

	England	*North Yorkshire county*	*City of York*
Mapped open country and registered common land[1]	865,119	174,025	188
Dedicated land[2]	155,279	14,570	112
Total	1,020,398	188,595	300

[1] This is open country (mountain, moor, heath or down) or registered common land conclusively mapped under section 4 of the CROW, with the removal of some areas of excepted land (military byelaw, racecourse and aerodromes), and of areas subject to military and national security restrictions, on the basis that they are not subject to CROW access rights. Some of the land included in these figures will have been subject to pre-existing open access rights of the type mentioned in CROW section 15, and as a result will not be subject to CROW access rights.

[2] This is land voluntarily dedicated by its owner or long leaseholder for open access, under CROW section 16.

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many senior civil servants in her Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements her Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised her Department in each such year. [68954]

Richard Benyon: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA), which is an executive agency of my Department, recruited one senior civil servant from Deloitte, starting on 18 May 2011. No other senior civil servants were recruited by my Department from these companies in the last four years.

DEFRA (including executive agencies) had the following contracts to provide services from these companies over the last four years, some of which were not for consultancy:

Date of order	*Company*	*Agreement*
Core Department[1]		
11 February 2010	Deloitte LLP	Deloitte contractor work—security analysis of Oracle E-Business Suite
17 May 2010	Deloitte LLP	RPA Control remediation Support
17 May 2010	Deloitte LLP	RPA Operational support
17 May 2010	Deloitte LLP	RPA debt and data project
5 July 2010	Deloitte LLP	RPA SPS debt and data project
14 July 2010	Deloitte LLP	RPA Operational Support (RMP 5811)
30 July 2010	Deloitte LLP	RPA Ops support, post-July 2010
6 August 2010	Deloitte LLP	External Training: Auditing Oracle
9 August 2010	Deloitte LLP	Internal Audit Services
14 December 2010	Deloitte LLP	Security analysis of Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) and underlying database
25 January 2011	Deloitte LLP	SPS Debt and Data project ph IV
7 February 2011	Deloitte LLP	Expertise on winding up an NDPB—Sustainable Development Commission
7 March 2011	Deloitte LLP	Finance support
28 October 2009	Deloitte MCS Ltd	DEFRA RPA Review: Workstream 1—Finance and Data
14 December 2009	Ernst and Young LLP	Provision of Carbon Accounting Specialist
10 May 2010	Ernst and Young LLP	PPM Interim Team
12 April 2011	Ernst and Young LLP	LEAN
16 December 2010	KPMG LLG	Provision of Internal Audit Interim Resource
1 June 2011	KPMG LLG	Science Agency Review Consultancy
15 August 2011	KPMG LLG	Interserve Annual Reconciliation Audit 2011
27 November 2009	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Catalyst Consultant
18 December 2009	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Catalyst interim
21 December 2009	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	DERA RPA Review: Workstream 2—Operations
22 December 2009	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Provision of Forensic Investigation Support
19 January 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	DEFRA RPA Review: Workstream 3—Systems
15 February 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Provision of Interim Head of Internal Audit
9 April 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Seafish Financial Advisor
7 May 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Specialist Audit Work
13 May 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Infrastructure Adaptation Solutions to Climate Change
27 August 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	RPA technical due diligence
5 November 2010	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	Waste PFI Credits
Rural Payments Agency		
1 August 2008	Deloitte	Review of RPA functions
13 January 2009	Deloitte	Specialist accounting advice re introduction of IFRS
24 March 2009	KPMG	Review and support of Internal Audit
21 October 2009	KPMG	Work for chairman of Audit Committee
1 March 2010	KPMG	Interim Head of Internal Audit
15 June 2010	Deloitte	Review of Finance
11 September 2010	Deloitte	Interim Head of Finance plus support
1 December 2010	PwC	Interim Head of Internal Audit plus support

[1] The core Department holds central records of contracts from November 2009 onwards, when new systems and processes were introduced. Collation of data in this format relating to periods prior to November 2009 would incur disproportionate cost.

The number of contractors from these companies who have worked in RPA in each of the last four years is as follows:

2007-08: 36

2008-09: 8

2009-10: 40

2010-11: 13.

Note that this shows the number of people who have worked in each financial year and therefore the same person will be counted against multiple years if their period of service crossed over from one year to the next.

In the core Department, the number of consultants used from these companies has not been kept centrally. To identify how many would incur disproportionate cost.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 629-30W, on departmental work experience, what guidelines her

Department issues on recruitment, selection, advertisement and operation of unpaid placements. [69472]

Richard Benyon: The Department is currently reviewing and adding content to its work experience guidance. We will have this completed by mid September and the final version will be shared between DEFRA and the Agencies.

The following documents are currently in use and will be made available in the House Library:

DEFRA Work Experience guidance;

DEFRA Placements and Scheme guidance;

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) HR Policy Recruitment (pages 9 and 10 specifically);

Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) Work Experience leaflet.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in her Department as of 1 July 2011. [69512]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and its Agencies had a total of *(a)* 31 persons undertaking unpaid work experience *(b)* 0 unpaid interns *(c)* three in other unpaid positions.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of written questions tabled to her for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71128]

Richard Benyon: Between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 638 questions for answer on a named day were tabled to DEFRA. Of these 343 or 53.8% were answered on the named day.

Between 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011 203 questions for answer on a named day were tabled to DEFRA. Of these 94 or 46.3% were answered on the named day.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance, on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the National Ecosystem Assessment has made of the value of ecosystem services provided by the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. [69447]

Richard Benyon: The National Ecosystem Assessment has made assessments of the value of a range of ecosystem services across the UK at a variety of spatial scales. This work is presented in the full technical report, which can be found on the UK National Ecosystems website, with the economic, health and well-being values of these services examined in detail in chapters 22, 23 and 24.

The valuation of ecosystem services was undertaken with reference to the distribution and condition of ecosystems across the country, rather than with reference to administrative boundaries. Therefore the UK National Ecosystem Assessment did not separately value ecosystem services provided by the Chilterns area of outstanding natural beauty, although much of the valuation work will be relevant to that area due to the range of ecosystems contained within it.

Fisheries: Western Sahara

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement on the indigenous population of Western Sahara. [71425]

Richard Benyon: I have made no assessment of the impact of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement on the indigenous population of Western Sahara. However, my officials have asked the EU Commission to request such an assessment from the Moroccan authorities.

Landfill

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which potentially dangerous particulates emanating from landfill and hazardous waste sites *(a)* are and *(b)* are not tested for; and if she will make a statement. [70742]

Richard Benyon: Environmental permits require operators to monitor any dust blowing off landfill sites. The results are normally expressed as the concentration of PM10s (all particles up to and including ten microns diameter).

Similar conditions may be imposed on sites treating hazardous waste where there is a risk of particulates blowing off the site. The Environment Agency may undertake monitoring in response to public concern about a specific site, and the parameters monitored will depend on the materials handled.

Nature Conservation: Hydroelectric Power

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to protect river habitats designated as special areas of conservation or sites of special scientific interest from hydro-electric schemes; and if she will make a statement. [71051]

Richard Benyon: Development in protected areas (special areas of conservation or sites of special scientific interest) is subject to specific legislation designed to ensure a high level of environmental protection. This includes hydro-electric schemes.

The Environment Agency and Natural England have procedures in place to ensure that hydro-electric schemes are only permitted where no adverse impact will take place on the features for which the site has been designated.

The Environment Agency is currently revising its Hydropower Good Practice Guidelines with help from Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales, developers and those with an interest in rivers. These will give further guidance on the conditions associated with hydropower schemes in protected areas.

Recycling: Coventry City Council

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department allocated to Coventry city council for the purposes of increasing recycling rates in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [70355]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA provided funding through the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant to upper tier local authorities outside London to support investment in infrastructure, such as recycling and composting facilities, to boost recycling rates. Authorities in London receive support through the London Waste and Recycling Board.

DEFRA provided Coventry city council with the following amounts:

	£
(a) 2009-10	546,799.84
(b) 2010-11	200,572.29

The Government provide funding more generally to local authorities to support the delivery of their services through the Revenue Support Grant. This funding is not ring-fenced, giving councils the freedom to work with their residents to decide how best to prioritise their spending, including on the provision of recycling services.

Recycling: West Midlands

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much revenue each local authority in the West Midlands has raised from selling recyclable waste in each year since 2006. [70369]

Richard Benyon: Data on revenue raised by local authorities from the sale of recyclable waste are not held centrally.

River Itchen: Hydroelectric Power

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of the Shears Mill mini-hydro scheme application on the River Itchen; and what assessment her Department has conducted on the potential effects of this scheme on salmon spawning redds. [71050]

Richard Benyon: Eastleigh borough council has submitted an application for an impoundment licence in the River Itchen at Shears Mill to enable the restoration of turbines for small-scale electricity generation. The River Itchen is a designated site of special scientific interest and a special area of conservation, placing duties on the Environment Agency to protect its chalk stream habitat and species including salmon, bullhead and lamprey.

Negotiations on the application continue in order to ensure the proposed scheme is sensitive to the needs of habitat and species protection.

Rural Advocate

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to provide an independent voice for rural communities after the expiry of the position of Rural Advocate. [71075]

Richard Benyon: The Government abolished the role of Rural Advocate in July 2010, and do not believe that it is necessary or appropriate to have a publicly-funded external rural campaigner when there are many respected rural organisations and commentators who already advocate strongly and effectively on behalf of rural people.

DEFRA Ministers are the Rural Champions within Government, and the Department remains keen to work closely with external stakeholders to ensure that the needs and interests of rural communities and businesses are fully and fairly reflected in all policies and programmes.

In addition, the Government are exploring the scope to encourage independent review of its approach to rural proofing, and will respond positively to any such review.

Salmon: Conservation

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statutory duties the Environment Agency has to protect salmon spawning redds as part of its river management obligations. [71052]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency (EA) has a general duty set out in The Environment Act 1995 to

> "maintain, improve and develop fisheries of salmon, trout, lampreys, smelt and freshwater fish".

The EA also has a duty to further the conservation of salmon and their aquatic environment, which includes salmon eggs and the gravels in which they are laid. More specifically, under section 2(4) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 anyone who

> "wilfully disturbs any spawn or spawning fish, or any bed, bank or shallow on which any spawn or spawning fish may be, shall be guilty of an offence".

The maximum fine under section 2(4) is £2,500.

Sewers: Berkshire

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of privately-managed sewers in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency. [70804]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has no estimates of the number of privately-managed sewers located in *(a)* Berkshire *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituencies. However, the impact assessment supporting The Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011, which came into force on 1 July 2011, estimated that in England and Wales approximately 184,000 km of private sewers and 36,000 km of private lateral drains connect to and affect the public system, but are not the responsibility of the water and sewerage companies.

Trade Unions

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on trade unions, for what reasons it is expected that the level of spending by her Department and its executive agencies on trade union activities will fall between 2010-11 and 2011-12. [70718]

Richard Benyon: It is expected that the level of spending on trade union activities will fall because we have reduced the budget available for funding facility time in 2011-12. This is in line with other cost efficiencies we are making and reflects decreasing staff numbers in the Department. It has resulted in a reduction of full-time trade union representatives from 12 to six in core DEFRA. Further work is planned both in core DEFRA and the Executive Agencies to reduce further the number of full-time trade union representatives, and the consequential cost.

Water Supply

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged over 60 years had water supplies disconnected in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [R] [71235]

Richard Benyon: Disconnection from the water supply has been banned since 30 June 1999 under the Water Industry Act 1999. Figures on disconnections between 1997 and 1999 are given as follows:

Number of water supply disconnections made by water undertakers for non-payment of a water bill

	(a) Total disconnections	*(b) Non- households*	*(c) Households*	*Percentage of households*
1997-98	3,681	1,774	1,907	0.009
1998-99	2,877	1,748	1,129	0.005
1999-2000	3,582	3,455	127	0.001

The Government's recent consultation on water affordability, "Affordable Water: a consultation on the Government's proposals following the Walker Review of Charging", which was published in April 2011 (and closed July 2011) stated:

> "The Government will not reverse the ban on disconnection. Nor will we allow water companies to use reduced flow devices (sometimes known as "trickle valves") which, in the Government's view, are tantamount to disconnection and could result in the same social and health problems that would arise from disconnection."

Wild Boar

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department has provided to the Forestry Commission on policy on the culling of wild boar on land managed by the Commission in each of the last four years. [70415]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission England would have received the same advice as any other owner or occupier requesting management advice for wild boar. Natural England's Wildlife Management and Licensing Team provides such advice on behalf of DEFRA. Its web page about wild boar has links to DEFRA's wild boar action plan, which outlines the Government's responsibilities in the management of feral wild boar in England, and to the wild boar best practice guides website.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the number of wild boar culled in each local authority area in each of the last four years. [70416]

Richard Benyon: Primary responsibility for feral wild boar management lies with local communities and individual landowners. Landowners, including local authorities, are free to control feral wild boar as they see fit as long as it is carried out in a humane and legal manner.

There is no requirement for landowners or local authorities to report numbers of wild boar culled to DEFRA. This information is therefore not held centrally.

Wildlife: Licensing

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has considered removing cobras and other venomous snakes from the list of animals which require a licence to be kept privately. [70269]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has not considered removing cobras or other venomous snakes from the schedule to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, which lists the species requiring a licence to be kept privately.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71139]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011, 2% of written questions tabled to the Department for International Development (DFID) for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named. Between 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011 the proportion was 1%. This is clearly not good enough and will improve.

India: Internally Displaced People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to help prevent the displacement of the Adivasi peoples of central India. [71154]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) works in two central Indian states with high populations of Adivasi (tribal) people: Madhya Pradésh and Orissa.

DFID programmes in these states help to promote the health, education and welfare of tribal people, especially women and girls. DFID also supports civil society groups, who help tribal communities to combat discrimination and obtain public services and social entitlements.

DFID is not currently supporting any programmes directly focused on preventing displacement.

Overseas Aid

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that aid recently allocated by his Department to Ethiopia reaches its intended recipients. [71411]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: All DFID expenditure in Ethiopia is subject to stringent systems and safeguards to make sure that every pound spent is used for the intended purpose.

Our approach is well illustrated by the Protection of Basic Services (PBS) programme, which provides health care, education and water to over 60 million people across Ethiopia. DFID support to PBS is protected by a range of systems and safeguards, including: quarterly audits; fairness tests that ensure that funds are distributed fairly across the regions and districts of Ethiopia; and the posting of budgets at local levels—to promote transparency and enable citizens to hold the authorities to account. We also provide funding to local civil society organisations to help citizens provide feedback on the quality and priorities of basic service delivery. And we are designing with other PBS contributors an independent grievance mechanism for citizens to report any wrongdoing.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67555]

Mr Davey: In the period May 2010 to present the Department has not held a subscription to Sky TV and has made no payments to Sky TV.

Departmental Expenditure

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the cost to the public purse was for *(a)* first class and *(b)* all train travel by (i) Ministers, (ii) staff and (iii) special advisers in his Department between June 2001 and May 2002; [68343]

(2) how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* special advisers in his Department between June 2001 and May 2002; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit; [68347]

(3) how many Government Procurement Cards were used by staff of his Department between June 2001 and May 2002; and what the *(a)* name of the supplier, *(b)* date and *(c)* value was of each transaction during this period; [68355]

(4) what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* four star, *(b)* five star and *(c)* other hotel accommodation for (i) staff, (ii) Ministers and (iii) special advisers in his Department between June 2001 and May 2002; [68369]

(5) what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* cars leased by his Department to staff and *(b)* Ministerial chauffeurs between June 2001 and May 2002; [68385]

(6) what the cost to the public purse was of stationery purchased by his Department between June 2001 and May 2002; [68389]

(7) what late payments his Department has made to contractors between June 2001 and May 2002; and what the cost to the public purse was of any *(a)* penalty charges or *(b)* interest charges incurred in that period. [68393]

Mr Davey: Due to the age of the information requested an answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU External Trade: Taiwan

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the likely impact on trade and business investment of an economic co-operation agreement between the EU and Taiwan. [68153]

Mr Davey: In 2008 the European Chamber of Commerce in Taipei asked Copenhagen Economics to examine the economic merits of trade enhancement measures between the EU and the separate customs territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu. The report estimated a boost of €2 billion per year to the EU GDP.

Insolvency

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an estimate of the effect of amending the insolvency rules to clearly define administration expenses on the number of businesses which would go into liquidation instead of administration. [71344]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Following a High Court decision in this area at the end of last year the Government invited views and evidence as to the impact of that decision from interested stakeholders. One of the potential consequences raised was that some companies may now go into liquidation rather than administration. We are considering all the representations made in deciding what legislative change might be required.

Intellectual Property

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to assist creative businesses in protecting their assets. [69666]

Mr Davey: There are a range of Government measures which will help creative businesses, including SMEs, to protect their innovative works. Those requiring or most likely to require legislation include ongoing reform of the Patents County Court to enable easier access to the courts, certain recommendations in the recent Hargreaves review of intellectual property ('Digital Opportunity'), and measures flowing from the Digital Economy Act 2010 to enable copyright owners to tackle online infringement of copyright.

Micro Firms

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the case for exempting micro firms from *(a)* redundancy regulations and *(b)* other provisions of employment law. [71007]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* A moratorium exempting micro businesses from new regulation applies to new employment law, and the recent Modern Workplaces proposals take this into account. However, no new regulations in relation to redundancy are currently planned, and no assessment has therefore been made in this specific area.

More widely, the Employment Law Review is considering how to reduce the burden of existing regulation on businesses of all sizes, to make it easier for them to take on staff and grow. Any proposals for reform would need to assess the impact on the economy as a whole, including on all-sized firms, workers and Government. Where relevant, proposals would also need to consider whether an exemption for micro-businesses would be appropriate.

Post Offices

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the post office on *(a)* reduction of queuing in post offices and *(b)* improvements to customer services. [71358]

Mr Davey: I have regular discussions with Post Office Limited's management about a wide range of network and customer service issues but operational responsibility for quality and standards of service in post offices rests with the company. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he is having with banks to encourage all banks to offer the full range of current account transactions at post offices; and what recent progress he has made. [71359]

Mr Davey: This Government have been clear that we wish to see a situation where all UK current accounts are accessible through the post office network. While this will ultimately be a commercial decision for each bank, Ministers and officials have had regular contact with HSBC and Santander, who do not currently extend this access to all of their customers, on this subject.

Details of the arrangements between individual banks and Post Office Limited (POL) are a commercial matter, and therefore the responsibility of senior management at POL.

Sick Leave: Musculoskeletal Disorders

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost to businesses of employees with long-term sickness as a result of musculoskeletal conditions; and if he will make a statement. [70408]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not have an estimate of the annual cost to businesses of employees with long-term sickness as a result of musculoskeletal conditions.

Employers pay statutory sick pay (and in some cases occupational sick pay) and are not required to submit this information to the Government unless they are seeking reimbursement for monies paid under the Percentage Threshold scheme.

Superconductors: Research

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 990W, on superconductors: research, if he will provide details on the 45 grants to academic institutions for research into superconductors. [68803]

Mr Willetts: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has provided long-term support for research into the study of superconductors. Currently the EPSRC portfolio for superconductivity represents 45 grants into UK academic institutions for a total value of £19 million. A full breakdown of the grants by grant title, institution and value will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Some of the grants in the table span a number of research areas with proportions devoted to superconductors. These proportions add up to 45 whole grants, spread over 67 projects.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Civil Disorder: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to support businesses which incurred a loss of earnings following the public disorder in Birmingham in August 2011. [70453]

Robert Neill: As part of a package of measures to help local communities and businesses to recover from these disturbances, we have set up the £20 million High Street Support Scheme. Working with local authorities, the scheme provides business rate hardship relief, building confidence and helping affected businesses get back up and running.

The scheme is specifically designed to help as many businesses as possible get back in business as quickly as possible, rather than as a compensation fund for direct loss of earnings or business income.

This does not mean that the scheme will not help small and medium-size enterprises in other related ways. The grants will cover many other costs of re-starting the business, including, for example, staff costs incurred while the business is affected by temporary closure, many of the costs not covered fully by insurance and help with cash flow while insurance claims are being made.

It will also fully reimburse local authorities for their costs in providing hardship relief for businesses affected by the disturbances. I hope that local authorities would take full account of this in taking the decision to offer relief to affected businesses. I know that some local authorities have already decided to do this and as business rates are a significant aspect of a businesses operating costs, this should make a real difference to businesses.

Consumers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken since his appointment to improve consumer protection in the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [71548]

Grant Shapps: This Government are committed to ensuring that consumers are treated fairly. At the same time, we do not want to swamp business in red tape which would force up rents and reduced the choice of accommodation for tenants. The private rented sector is an excellent example of how our approach can secure improvements in consumer protection without excessive regulatory burdens. Recent initiatives include support for the industry-led SAFEagent campaign; the publication of clear, accurate fact sheets on rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants; and coupled with legislation, in the Localism Bill, to safeguard tenancy deposit protection.

Departmental Flags

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Lord Stoddart of Swindon of 26 July 2010, *House of Lords, Official Report*, column 272WA, on EU: flag, what steps his Department has taken to inform the European Commission that it has complied with Article 7(2) of EC Regulation 1828/2006 by flying the EU flag since 2007. [68900]

Robert Neill: As a consequence of Article 7(2) EC Regulation 1828/2006, my Department is obliged to fly the flag of the European Union in front of its premises for one week every year, after Europe Day. There is no formal requirement to inform the European Commission, but I am informed that visible failure to comply would result in the European Commission imposing fines (described as 'financial corrections').

Ministers consider that European regulations should focus on ensuring that European funds are used to best promote the economic development of the EU. I wish to reassure hon. Members that the United Kingdom's Union flag always flies in superior position outside our Department on its primary flagpole.

On the second flagpole, in the 51 weeks of the year that are not regulated by the European Commission, since May 2010 Ministers have undertaken to fly national, county and military flags of United Kingdom. This has included formally recognising historic counties such as Middlesex.

On 1 April 2011, the Department flew a flag to mark Britain's maritime heritage.

On 4 July 2011, we flew the flag of the United States of America to note the centenary of Ronald Reagan's birth and to mark the enduring ties of friendship between our two nations. We intend to fly a further range of worthy flags in the months ahead.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department between June 2007 and May 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was in (i) cash and (ii) real terms of such appointments. [68330]

Robert Neill: The Department's special adviser and press office full-time equivalent staff numbers are summarised in the following table:

	Special advisers	*Press office staff*
2007-08	3	38
2008-09	3	43
2009-10	3	45.58

The number of special advisers within the Department varies within the year (as appointments sometimes overlap). The numbers given in the above table represent the number there were for the majority of each year. In 2010, the Department employed three special advisers up to the election in May 2010, and two special advisers subsequent to the election.

Salary costs for the Department's special advisers are given in the following table:

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cash terms	240,252	201,850	296,653
Real terms	250,920	205,137	296,653

As part of the new Government's transparency agenda, the individual salaries of special advisers in the current Administration are published on the Cabinet Office website; the pension arrangements are as laid out in the Cabinet Office's model contract for special advisers.

Salary costs for the Department's Press Office, which includes staff working on marketing , news planning and speech-writing as well as press office duties, are given in the following table:

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cash terms	2,921,195	3,026,170	3,161,505
Real terms	3,050,902	3,075,443	3,161,505

The source for real term calculations are the GDP deflators as published 28 June 2011 by HM Treasury; 2009-10 is used as the base year.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71124]

Robert Neill: 17% (143 out of 853) of named day parliamentary questions for answer between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 were not answered on the due date. Within this, the proportion not answered on the due date between 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011 was 23% (58 out of 250).

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Brownfield Sites

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives are in place to encourage developers to use brownfield sites in preference to greenfield sites. [70787]

Robert Neill: The Government believe that local communities should determine their own vision for the future development of their area, setting out in their local plan which sites are most appropriate for development. The draft National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that councils should make effective use of land, allocating for development land with the least environmental and amenity value where practical. We are removing the national brownfield target, as this had a distorting effect in some areas, driving up land prices and resulting in high density, unpopular development.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change was in brownfield site development in the city region of *(a)* Bristol, *(b)* Newcastle Upon Tyne, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* Cardiff, *(e)* Nottingham, *(f)* Southampton, *(g)* Leeds, *(h)* Bradford, *(i)* Birmingham, *(j)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(k)* Greater Manchester and *(l)* Belfast between May 1997 and May 2010. [71351]

Robert Neill: The following table provides estimates of the proportion of land changing to developed use that was previously-developed land in Bristol, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Liverpool, Nottingham, Southampton, Leeds, Bradford, Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Manchester (defined as area of Manchester city council).

Estimates for Cardiff and Belfast are not available in this form but some information may be available from the devolved Administrations.

Such 'brownfield' development included building on residential gardens. The estimates are shown as averages for 'four-year periods' because of volatility in estimates at local authority level for individual years.

			Percentage of land area	
Local authority	*1995-98*	*1999-2002*	*2003-06*	*2007-10*
Birmingham	86	62	66	87
Bradford	53	68	86	62
Bristol	60	77	84	70
Leeds	61	61	69	67
Liverpool	86	77	71	91
Manchester	88	41	70	83
Newcastle Upon Tyne	80	74	82	61
Nottingham	88	46	41	75
Southampton	82	52	61	86
Stoke-on-Trent	95	59	55	90

Source:
Land Use Change Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change was in brownfield site development between *(a)* 1997 and 2007, *(b)* May 1997 and May 2010 and *(c)* May 2010 and the latest period for which figures are available. [71353]

Robert Neill: The following table provides estimates for the proportion of land changing to developed use that was previously-developed land in England over the period 1997 to 2009. Such 'brownfield' development including building on residential gardens.

	Percentage of land area England
1997	51
1998	51
1999	52
2000	53
2001	57
2002	59
2003	57
2004	60
2005	61
2006	52
2007	55
2008	53
2009[1]	51

[1] Provisional estimate.

Source:
Land Use Change Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government

Brownfield Sites: Greater London

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in brownfield site development in Greater London was between 1997 and 2010. [71352]

Robert Neill: The following table provides estimates for the proportion of land changing to developed use that was previously-developed land for London, for the years 1997 to 2009 (the latest available estimate). Such 'brownfield' development including building on residential gardens.

	Percentage of land area London
1997	81
1998	88
1999	80
2000	89
2001	85
2002	88
2003	91
2004	91
2005	91
2006	78
2007	95
2008	81

	Percentage of land area London
2009[1]	92

[1] Provisional estimate.

Source:

Land Use Change Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government

Employment Agencies: Public Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of employment of external recruitment consultants by local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available; [70168]

(2) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the cost implications of employing external recruitment consultants. [70169]

Robert Neill: It is for councils, as individual employers, to ensure that they manage and recruit their work forces in a way that delivers the best value for money for taxpayers. While we have no plans to publish any such guidance, given the need to achieve savings, councils will wish to review their work force costs, including the use of consultants, to help preserve front-line services.

All local authorities are asked to make public any item of spend over £500. This means that any residents can see for themselves how much their local authority is spending on external recruitment consultants. The Government are clear that local authorities should be held to account by the citizens that they serve, not central Government Departments.

Government Procurement Card

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Government Procurement Cards were used by staff of his Department between June 2007 and May 2010; and what the *(a)* name of the supplier, *(b)* date and *(c)* value was of each transaction during this period. [68353]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to my answers to my hon. Friend the Member for Bristol North West (Charlotte Leslie), on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-34W, and 11 July, 2011, *Official Report*, column 56W. Copies of Government Procurement Card transactions for financial years 2009-2010, 2008-2009, 2007-2008 and 2006-2007 have been deposited in the Library of the House.

The Department has also published full details of all transactions on the Government Procurement Card since 2006 (including financial year 2010-11) on its Freedom of Information disclosure log on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2011/jul2011/gpc20062011/

A total of 135 Government Procurement Cards were used in the period June 2007 to May 2010.

The Department has reviewed its policy on Government Procurement Card usage and has reduced the number of cards on issue to 36.

Housing: Energy

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that new houses meet targets for *(a)* the reduction of carbon emissions and *(b)* energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [71024]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 9 September 2011]*: The "Plan for Growth"

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_growth.pdf

set out our policy on zero carbon homes so that new homes do not add additional carbon emissions to our carbon footprint.

As part of our policy we want to ensure that zero-carbon homes must be energy efficient homes. We have already made clear our intention to introduce the Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard as recommended by the independent Zero Carbon Hub. This will ensure that homes are warmer, and cheaper and easier to heat.

My Department is working on other aspects of the policy, including looking at the right level for carbon reductions on the site of the homes itself; building on the industry's commitment to move to an approach based on real world carbon savings rather than modelled reductions in emissions; and, where emissions cannot be mitigated cost effectively measures on the site of the home, ensuring that mechanism is available that allows house builders to meet their obligations at a cost no higher than the Government's long term value of carbon.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has a range of fuel poverty policies to assist low income, vulnerable households irrespective of the age of the property.

Inform

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has provided funding to the organisation Inform in the last five years. [71666]

Andrew Stunell: Inform, a centre for independent research on new religious movements, has received funding from the Department in each of the last five years. We are considering whether further grant support is appropriate.

Inventory Companies

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for the regulation of inventory companies instructed by the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [71547]

Grant Shapps: It is a general principle of this Government that we will not rush into regulation where voluntary approaches to ensuring safeguards for consumers have not been properly tested and where there is little evidence to suggest that such an approach is needed. Therefore, given the paucity of evidence to suggest any problems with inventory companies that might be remedied by regulation, we have no plans to regulate this sector. Excessive regulation would push up rents and reduce the choice of accommodation for tenants.

Local Government: Expenditure

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant the oral answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 5, on local government expenditure, what the evidential basis is for the estimate of the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Bromley and Chiselhurst (Robert Neill) that 20 per cent. savings could be made by local authorities on expenditure. [71508]

Robert Neill: It is the Local Government Group's own findings from its Local Productivity Programme, which has assessed the experience of councils of making savings through collaborative procurement, that has identified savings of up to 20% in some service areas. This is evidenced in the Procurement, Capital and Shared Assets Productivity Workstream's published "Response to Spending Review, Quick Wins Strategy, October 2010". The document is available here:

http://www.niepbuiltenvironment.org.uk/documents/PCSAWorkstream-QuickWinsStrategyOct2010.pdf

Local Government: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* local authorities in England and *(b)* City of York council spent on employing (i) educational and (ii) other staff in (A) 2002-03 and (B) the latest year for which figures are available; and what change there has been in the proportion of (1) local authority and (2) City of York council expenditure on staff since 2002-03. [71486]

Robert Neill: The information requested is in the following table:

Employee expenditure

£ million

	2002-03	*2010-11*[1]
City of York		
Education service	67.5	99.5
Other services	37.6	84.3
All services	105.1	183.7
Percentage of total net current expenditure—all services	63	72
England		
Education service	21,972.8	32,463.5
Other services	22,372.0	33,083.3
All services	44,344.8	65,546.9
Percentage of total net current expenditure—all services	68	64

[1] Provisional outturn

Total expenditure on employees as reported by authorities to Department for Communities and Local Government on Revenue Outturn (RO) forms. This includes all direct and indirect employee expenses including pay, employers' national insurance and pension contributions, location allowances and other employee-related costs such as training and recruitment and retention premiums.

Figures are not necessarily comparable year on year owing to changes in the funding, function and structure of local authorities during this time.

Local Government: Standards

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what performance statistics local authorities are under a statutory requirement to collect; and what plans he has for any changes to such requirements in the next three years. [68975]

Robert Neill: Following the abolition in 2010-11 of local area agreements and the National Indicator Set there is no longer any general centralised collection of performance data from local authorities. The Single list of central Government data requirements from local government (the "Single Data List") published by my Department on 14 July 2011 lists all data returns that central Government expect from local government. Central Government do not distinguish between data provided to then for performance or other purposes.

The following extract from the Single Data List shows all those data collections which local authorities are under a specific statutory obligation to collect. This list includes all statutory collections (including those which are required to fulfil legal obligations under European/International law and directives), regardless of whether or not they are collected for performance purposes.

The length of this list illustrates the scale of the data reporting and bureaucratic burdens placed on local government by central Government.

Since May 2010, Departments across Whitehall have ended a wide range of unjustified data demands and bureaucratic burdens placed on local government; including Comprehensive Area Assessment, the National Indicator Set, the 4,700 Local Area Agreement targets, and over 40 separate data collection requirements such as the Place Survey. This has already reduced the bureaucratic burden placed on local government, but there is more to do.

Reducing unnecessary burdens will free councils to protect frontline services and focus spending on local priorities. The coalition Government are committed to giving councils more freedoms and flexibilities.

Extract from the Single Data List showing all local authority data collections which are a statutory requirement

Data collection	*Department*	*Reference*[1]
House Building Return (form P2)	DCLG	002-00
Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Claim forms	DCLG	015-00 to 017-00
Housing Revenue Account Subsidy base data forms	DCLG	018-00
Housing Capital Receipts pooling	DCLG	167-00
Housing Capital Receipts pooling—signed paper return	DCLG	168-00
Annual Monitoring Reports	DCLG	024-00
Revenue Summary	DCLG	026-00
Revenue Grants	DCLG	027-00

Extract from the Single Data List showing all local authority data collections which are a statutory requirement

Data collection	*Department*	*Reference*[1]
Revenue Outturn	DCLG	028-00
Trading Services Return	DCLG	029-00
Subjective Analysis Return	DCLG	030-00
Business Improvement Districts Outturn	DCLG	031-00
Revenue Account budget	DCLG	032-00
Revenue Account Specific and Special Grants	DCLG	033-00
Business Improvement Districts Revenue Account	DCLG	034-00
Capital Outturn Return	DCLG	035-00 to 038-00
Capital Forecast Return	DCLG	039-00
Capital Estimates Return	DCLG	040-00
Capital Payments and Receipts (forms CPR 1 to 4)	DCLG	041-00
Budget Requirement returns (forms BR1 to 3)	DCLG	042-00
Quarterly Return of Council Taxes and Non-domestic rates	DCLG	043-00 and 166-00
Quarterly Revenue Outturn	DCLG	044-00
Council Tax Base	DCLG	045-00
National Non-domestic Rates Return 1	DCLG	046-00
National Non-domestic Rates Return 2 downward calculation	DCLG	047-00
National Non-domestic Rates Return 3	DCLG	048-00
Local Government Pension Scheme Funds (form SF3)	DCLG	050-00
Monthly Borrowing and Lending Inquiry	DCLG	051-00
Quarterly Borrowing and Lending Inquiry	DCLG	052-00
Public Contracts Regulations 2006	DCLG	213-00
Quarterly Return of Wages and Salaries	DCLG	053-00
Fire and rescue incident data	DCLG	060-00
Fire and rescue service non-financial annual returns	DCLG	061-00
Fire Fighters Pension Fund—Non-financial data	DCLG	172-00
Fire Fighters Pension Fund—Financial data	DCLG	173-00
Imports of products of animal origin from third countries	DEFRA	068-00
Animal Welfare: during transport; on Farm	DEFRA	069-00
Prosecutions under the Animal Health Act 1981 (and other animal health and welfare legislation) (Section 80 Report)	DEFRA	073-00
Local Pollution Control Statistical Survey	DEFRA	075-00
Incidents under the Environmental Damage Regulations 2009	DEFRA	078-00
Fly-tipping incidents (Flycapture)	DEFRA	079-00
Flood and coastal erosion risk management and sustainable drainage systems	DEFRA	080-00
Developments in flood risk areas	DEFRA	243-00
WasteDataFlow—LA waste management statistics	DEFRA	082-00
Local Authority Private Water Supplies Data submission	DEFRA	083-00
Child Death Review Panels (form LSCB1)	DfE	086-00
Children in Need Census	DfE	087-00
Children Looked After (form SSDA903)	DfE	088-00
Missing from Care and Home	DfE	089-00
Private Fostering (form PF1)	DfE	090-00
Secure Children's Homes (form SA1)	DfE	092-00
Early Years Census	DfE	096-00
Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	DfE	098-00
Admissions: Parental Preferences met	DfE	100-00
Admissions: report to the School Adjudicator	DfE	101-00
Key Stage assessment data	DfE	161-00
School Census	DfE	159-00
Alternative Provision Census	DfE	102-00
Parental Responsibility (Attendance and Behaviour)	DfE	104-00
Pupil Referral Unit Census	DfE	105-00
School Admissions Appeals	DfE	107-00
School Capacity	DfE	108-00
School Exclusion Appeals	DfE	109-00
School Workforce Census	DfE	111-00
Section 251 financial return—budget	DfE	113-00
Section 251 financial return—outturn	DfE	182-00
Special Educational Needs Statement Completion	DfE	115-00
Standards Fund monitoring (TO CEASE DURING 2011-12)	DfE	116-00
Teacher Pension Contributions	DfE	117-00

Extract from the Single Data List showing all local authority data collections which are a statutory requirement

Data collection	*Department*	*Reference*[1]
Teacher Pension Service	DfE	118-00
16-18 Year-olds not in employment education or training	DfE	119-00
Chief Finance Officer Sign-Off Statements	DfE	120-00
Consistent Financial Reporting	DfE	171-00
Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (form SEN2)	DfE	189-00
Road Lengths Survey	DfT	132-00
Personal Social Services Expenditure return (form PSSEX1)	DH	133-00
Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care	DH	134-00
Adult Social Care Survey	DH	135-00
Adult Social Care Combined Activity Return	DH	136-00
Abuse of Vulnerable Adults return	DH	137-00
Mental Health Guardianship return (form SSDA702)	DH	138-00
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Return	DH	139-00
Carers Survey	DH	140-00
National Minimum Data Set—Social Care workforce data	DH	142-00
Register of blind and partially sighted people (form SSDA902)	DH	144-00
Register of deaf or hard of hearing people (form SSDA910) (PROPOSED FOR DELETION)	DH	174-00
Grant Funded Services return (PROPOSED FOR DELETION)	DH	175-00
Personal Social Services Staffing (form SSDSOOI) (PROPOSED FOR DELETION)	DH	176-00
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit subsidy estimates and claims	DWP	150-00
Discretionary Housing Payment estimates and claims	DWP	151-00
Whole of Government Accounts	HMT(DCLG)	183-00
Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment Licensing	HO	163-00
Weights and measures enforcement (section 70)	BIS/NMO	001-00
Public rights of way	BIS/OS	158-00
Parish council boundaries	BIS/OS	177-00
National Fraud Initiative	DCLG/AC	170-00
Fraud and Corruption Survey	DCLG/AC	242-00
Gambling Licensing Authority Returns	DCMS/GC	207-00
Small Society Lottery	DCMS/GC	208-00
Gambling Temporary Use Notices	DCMS/GC	209-00
Club Machine Permits and Club Gaming Permits	DCMS/GC	210-00
Gambling Premises data	DCMS/GC	211-00
Flood risk management capacity	DEFRA/EA	244-00
Strategic Overview of Flood and Coastal Erosion risk	DEFRA/EA	245-00
Reporting on EU flood risk regulations	DEFRA/EA	246-00
Newly Qualified Teachers—Induction Returns	Dfe/GTC	200-00
Fee Collection—Salary Deduction Process	DfE/GTC	201-00
Childcare inspection data	DfE/Ofsted	219-00
Local Authority Adult and Community Learning provision	DfE/Ofsted	225-00
Standard bus permits	DfT/TC	124-00
Health protection Part2A Order notifications	DH/HPA	143-00
Notification of Infectious Diseases	DH/HPA	233-00
Billing Authority Report	HMRC/VOA	241-00
Youth Justice Management Information System	MOJ/YJB	180-00
Food Hygiene (Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System)	FSA	190-00
Food Standards (Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System)	FSA	191-00
Imported Food (Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System)	FSA	192-00
Central Lists of Feed Business Establishments	FSA	193-00
Approved Food Premises	FSA	194-00
Imported Food Safeguard Measures	FSA	195-00
Animal Feed Data returns	FSA	196-00
Performance Standards for Electoral Registration Officers	Electoral Commission[2]	227-00
Performance Standards for Returning Officers	Electoral Commission[2]	228-00
Statement of Postal Ballot Papers	Electoral Commission[2]	229-00
Annual Financial Information return	Electoral Commission[2]	230-00
Electoral administration plans	Electoral Commission[2]	231-00

[1] Reference numbers relate to the collection reference in the main Single Data List.

[2] Collections by the Electoral Commission are included on the Single Data List for completeness. The Commission is a body entirely independent from Government, and these returns are not subject to the normal arrangements for the single data list.

The full Single Data List is published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/singledatalist/

The Government are committed to reducing the burden of data collection on local authorities, and the Single Data List provides a mechanism for ensuring this. However, there will be situations where new reporting requirements are necessary. For example, from 2013-14 local authorities will be reporting on public health outcomes and other issues following transfer of responsibilities and functions in this area. These and any other changes will be captured and reflected in the planned annual refresh of the Single Data List.

Non-domestic Rates

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate his Department has made of the likely yield from national non-domestic rates in each local authority area in each of the next five years; [70549]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the forecast change in national non-domestic rates yield in each local authority area in each of the next five years. [70554]

Robert Neill: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government set out proposals to allow local retention of business rates in his oral statement to the House on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 662-64. The Government's proposals will ensure a stable starting point, so that no local authority will be worse off as a result of its business rates base at the outset of the new system.

The precise impact of the Government's proposals upon individual local authorities will depend on a range of factors, including future business rates growth at the local level, the behavioural response to the changes, and the final design of the scheme following consultation. The Government have sought views on their proposals and, on 19 August, published eight technical papers which provide further details on the proposals, together with an interactive calculator. The calculator enables users to explore the possible effects of certain scheme design options based upon their own assumptions about local circumstances.

The proposals incorporate a range of protections to ensure councils can meet local needs, including a safety net for places in need of additional support, funded by a levy recovering a share of disproportionate gain, while at the same time ensuring that councils always benefit from encouraging business growth in their area.

Information is available at a local authority level for 2011-12 forecast national non-domestic rates to be collected. This is as supplied by local authorities:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1910477.xls

Outturn information is also available for 2010-11 at local authority level as supplied by local authorities:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/outturn/outturndatalocallevel/

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation on business rates retention of July 2011, paragraphs 3.9 to 3.20, whether local authorities will be able to appeal against *(a)* the baseline and *(b)* tariff or top-up designated to them by Government. [70555]

Robert Neill: It is our intention that the proposed local authority baselines, tariffs and top ups, and the basis on which they are calculated, will be subject to consultation and that local authorities will be able to make representations on those proposals.

Smoking: Public Places

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal requirements exist in respect of the erection and display of signage where a local authority seeks to introduce a smoking ban in a public place where smoking is not otherwise prohibited by law. [71449]

Robert Neill: The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 grant deemed consent to display advertisements which give a direction or warning with respect to the land or buildings on which they are displayed. There are restrictions on the dimensions of such advertisements and their height above ground level.

Tenants: Leasehold

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the rights of business leasehold tenants to acquire properties; and whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals in respect of such rights. [71742]

Grant Shapps: We do not believe most business tenants would benefit from a right to acquire the freehold and have no plans to legislate. Business tenants normally enjoy statutory rights of security of tenure, and there is generally a plentiful supply of commercial premises for purchase on the open market for businesses that would prefer to occupy their property freehold.

Travellers

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of Traveller sites over the next five years. [70553]

Andrew Stunell: On 13 April the Government published their draft planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation. The consultation on the Government's draft planning policy for Traveller sites ended on 3 August. The Government are considering the responses and intend to publish their new policy as soon as possible.

Vandalism

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered the merits of conducting an assessment of the effects on local environments of unauthorised fly-posting; and if he will consider the merits of taking steps to control fly-posting. [70396]

Robert Neill: The Government have not undertaken an assessment on the effects of fly-posting on the environment. However the latest annual Local Environmental Quality Survey of England 2009-10, undertaken by Keep Britain Tidy on behalf of the Government, indicates that fly-posting was a concern at only 1% of sites surveyed.

Local authorities have a wide range of powers to remove or obliterate illegal advertisements, prosecute offenders and recover their costs. They may also issue notices to require those responsible to remove fly-posters. Guidance on these can be found in paragraphs 129-144 of the Annex to DCLG Circular 03/2007 "Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007" at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circulartown

The good practice guide "The Control of Fly-Posting" can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/156909.pdf

Further powers to remedy persistent problems with unauthorised advertisements by requiring owners or occupiers of "relevant surfaces" to carry out specified measures to prevent or reduce the frequency of fly-posting are being taken in the Localism Bill.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by Arts Council England using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71221]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold information relating to its arm's length bodies' Government Procurement Cards.

Arts Council England does not hold this information in the format requested centrally, and to collate it would exceed the disproportionate cost limit.

Internet: Broadband

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects the 4G spectrum auction to be completed. [71540]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom is currently expecting to conduct the auction in the first half of 2012.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with mobile telephone network operators on the minimum Sub-1GHz spectrum portfolio required by an operator in order for them to provide the coverage needed to support the universal broadband commitment. [71678]

Mr Vaizey: No discussions have been held with network operators on the minimum spectrum portfolios, as the design and timing of the auction is a matter for Ofcom. Ofcom consulted on competition issues in the mobile sector and the combined auction earlier this year and received representations from the network operators and others regarding the design of the auction.

Museums: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people visited each of the national museums in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996-97. [71468]

Mr Vaizey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the then Minister of State, Culture, Media and Sport, the right hon. Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 194-6W.

Additionally, the number of visitors in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to the national museums which fall within the Yorkshire and Humber region are in the following table:

	National Coal Mining Museum for England	*National Media Museum*	*National Railway Museum, York*	*Royal Armouries Leeds*	*Total*
2009-10	118,417	606,837	709,166	269,591	1,704,011
2010-11	107,582	497,522	630,396	273,824	1,509,324

National Lottery: Sports

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the National Lottery has given to (i) amateur sports clubs, (ii) sport in schools and (iii) professional sports clubs in York since 1996-97. [71469]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England invests national lottery and Exchequer funding in community sport.

Sport England does not hold details of Exchequer funding prior to 2002-03, however since this date the City of York local authority has been awarded £281,800 of Exchequer funding, and since 1996-97 £2,795,987 of lottery funding.

Of this, £2,067,594 was awarded to amateur and professional sports clubs, and £1,010,193 to local authorities and statutory bodies. Sport England does not record funding by the categories requested, and the hon. Member has identifying the funds in this way could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Newspaper Press: Olympic Games 2012

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what representations he has received from London-based local newspapers concerning media accreditation during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics; [71684]

(2) what advice he has received from *(a)* the British Olympic Association and *(b)* the International Olympic Committee concerning media accreditation for London-based local newspapers during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics; [71685]

(3) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the British Olympic Association and *(b)* the International Olympic Committee on steps to ensure that London-based local newspapers are able to provide coverage of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics; [71686]

(4) whether he plans to provide support to London-based local newspapers to ensure that they are able to provide coverage of London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics; [71687]

(5) how many requests have been made by London-based local newspapers for media accreditation during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics; [71688]

(6) if he will assess the merits of providing London-based local newspapers with media accreditation during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. [71689]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State has received two representations. The British Olympic Association (BOA), as the National Olympic Committee for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is responsible for allocating accreditation for the Olympic Games for media based in the United Kingdom. The British Paralympic Association (BPA), as the National Paralympic Committee, is similarly responsible for UK media allocation to the Paralympic Games. The process for the Paralympic Games has yet to be finalised.

I understand from the BOA that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has awarded the BOA far more accreditations than in the past and more accreditations than any other National Olympic Committee. Over 3,000 applications have been received for the approximately 400 accreditations available.

To assist with the allocation process, the BOA established a Media Accreditation Committee composed of representatives from a broad spectrum of the written and photographic press respected for their knowledge and experience from Olympic Games or understanding of the UK media.

For 2012 the IOC awarded BOA the following number of accreditations:

	Number
Journalist	270
Photographer	80
Sport specific journalist	20
Sport specific photographer	20
Support staff	8
Technician	12

When determining the allocation of accreditations BOA has taken into account, among other things, continuous editorial commitment to Olympic sport throughout the four-year Olympic cycle; history of attending Olympic Games; circulation numbers; and publication frequency. Throughout this process the BOA's primary purpose has been to ensure that the allocations made are fair given the limited number of accreditations available. The Press Association has been appointed by the IOC as the National Host News Agency for the London 2012 Olympic Games (and has also been appointed by the International Paralympic Committee as the National Host News Agency for the 2012 Paralympic Games) to service the local and regional press in the UK and they have committed to covering every British athlete at the games. The BOA has also agreed that regional written and photographic press who applied for accreditation should benefit from a small number of passes to be allocated on a pool basis. The distribution of these will be decided by the BOA with guidance from the Newspaper Society, in consultation with regional publishers. The Newspaper Society will be in touch with representatives of regional newspaper groups in the next few months to set up a meeting to discuss practical arrangements over operation of the pool.

I will shortly be writing to the BOA on this matter and I will ensure the outcome of this correspondence is passed on to my hon. Friend.

Sports: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on sport in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* City of York local authority area in each year since 1996-97. [71470]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England invests national lottery and Exchequer funding in community sport.

A breakdown of Exchequer and lottery funding in Yorkshire and the Humber and the City of York local authority area can be found in the following tables. Sport England does not hold details of Exchequer funding prior to 2002-03.

Exchequer

	Region	*Total (£)*
2002-03	Yorkshire and the Humber	2,558,804
2003-04	Yorkshire and the Humber	3,349,205
2004-05	Yorkshire and the Humber	4,983,347
2005-06	Yorkshire and the Humber	6,207,436
2006-07	Yorkshire and the Humber	9,840,496
2007-08	Yorkshire and the Humber	9,724,876
2008-09	Yorkshire and the Humber	10,333,111
2009-10	Yorkshire and the Humber	9,353,093
2010-11	Yorkshire and the Humber	9,202,472
2011-12	Yorkshire and the Humber	5,513,364
Grand total		71,066,205

Lottery

	Region	*Total (£)*
1996-97	Yorkshire and the Humber	14,914,022
1997-98	Yorkshire and the Humber	11,241,054
1998-99	Yorkshire and the Humber	22,638,684
1999-2000	Yorkshire and the Humber	9,718,667
2000-01	Yorkshire and the Humber	44,691,693
2001-02	Yorkshire and the Humber	51,067,268
2002-03	Yorkshire and the Humber	15,827,220
2003-04	Yorkshire and the Humber	18,408,969
2004-05	Yorkshire and the Humber	15,205,251
2005-06	Yorkshire and the Humber	11,394,807
2006-07	Yorkshire and the Humber	10,515,917
2007-08	Yorkshire and the Humber	7,673,690
2008-09	Yorkshire and the Humber	5,327,842
2009-10	Yorkshire and the Humber	30,853,738
2010-11	Yorkshire and the Humber	7,207,008
2011-12	Yorkshire and the Humber	12,538,140
Grand total		289,223,970

The regional figures include national awards to governing bodies of sport situated in the region and funding to the English institute of Sport in Sheffield.

Exchequer

	Local authority	*Total (£)*
2007-08	York	131,000
2008-09	York	149,800

Exchequer

	Local authority	*Total (£)*
2010-11	York	1,000
Grand total		281,800

Lottery

	Local authority	*Total (£)*
1996-97	York	20,754
1997-98	York	89,212
1998-99	York	288,690
1999-2000	York	572,367
2000-01	York	166,969
2001-02	York	749,459
2003-04	York	146,882
2004-05	York	472,723
2005-06	York	61,583
2008-09	York	120,000
2009-10	York	14,824
2010-11	York	84,480
2011-12	York	8,044
Grand total		2,795,987

In addition, the Department allocated £30 million of private finance initiative (PFI) credits in 2005 to Leeds city council to provide two New Leaf Leisure Centres.

JUSTICE

Probation Trusts

18. **Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of probation trusts; and if he will make a statement. [71325]

21. **Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of probation trusts; and if he will make a statement. [71328]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is taking forward work on the future shape of probation services in England and Wales and considering different models for delivering offender services in the community. We will set out our preferred approach later in the autumn.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

20. **Mr Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the potential effects of implementation of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill. [71327]

Mr Djanogly: Before the Bill was introduced on 21 June 2011 the Ministry of Justice conducted three wide-ranging public consultations, which received over 6,000 responses.

During the Commons Committee stage of the Bill there were four public evidence sessions where the Bill Committee heard from various organisations such as the Bar Council, Law Society, the Victims Commissioner and prison and probation trade unions.

Civil Justice System

22. **George Eustice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve the civil justice system. [71329]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government will be publishing their response to the recent Civil Justice consultation paper: "Solving Disputes in the County Court", later this year. In addition, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill includes provisions to implement fundamental reform of civil litigation funding and costs, as recommended by Lord Justice Jackson. We have also begun an extensive modernisation programme which will improve efficiency in the civil justice system.

Public Disorder: Response of the Criminal Justice System

23. **Steve McCabe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to assess the effectiveness of the response of the criminal justice system to the public disorder of August 2011. [71330]

Mr Blunt: The criminal justice system, with its dedicated work force, responded well to the challenges caused by the recent disturbances. It is too early to learn all the lessons, but my Department intends to review all aspects of the CJS response, considering what it can learn both for future emergencies and for adopting as business as usual.

Civil Disorder

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants were *(a)* charged and *(b)* found guilty of riot following the public disorder in August. [71364]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 809W.

Courts: Televisions

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of his proposals for further televising of aspects of the work of the judiciary; and from what budget such funding will be drawn. [71414]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Full costs have yet to be determined and will depend on operational details which I am working with the judiciary and others to agree. However, it is my intention to ensure that additional costs resulting from these proposals will not be met from the public purse.

Curfew Orders: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many curfew orders have been issued by courts in York since the introduction of such orders; and how many of those people have been proceeded against for breaching them. [71500]

Mr Blunt: The following data, submitted by the service provider G4S, shows the number of electronically-monitored curfews ordered by York Crown, magistrates and youth courts, and Selby magistrates courts, in each financial year since 2005-06, and the number of breaches reported by G4S to the authorities in each period.

The data for breaches show the number of individuals whom G4S reported to the appropriate authority for further action. In the case of Bail, this is the Police. For Community Orders or Suspended Sentences it is the

Youth Offending Team, Probation Offender Manager, or directly to the Court if the curfew is a standalone sentence. The final outcome of breach notifications is not routinely provided to the contractor, unless it is a standalone sentence. This information is not recorded centrally and would require a trawl of individual records of Probation Trusts, Youth Offending Teams and Police Areas at disproportionate cost. Breach data for the periods 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not available, and could only be retrieved with a manual trawl of records at disproportionate costs.

Bail

	Financial year						
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*[1]
Orders	53	60	143	166	213	178	53
Breaches reported	n/a	n/a	86	105	129	108	11

Community Order/Suspended Sentence

	Financial year						
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*[1]
Orders	77	118	225	318	403	345	123
Breaches reported	n/a	n/a	90	147	215	203	49

[1] To end August 2011.

Housing: Sales

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason sale prices of houses sold before 2000 are not made available online. [71194]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Before 1976 the price paid or value stated was entered on the register of title maintained by HM Land Registry. A change to the land registration rules made in 1976 removed the requirement to enter this information.

On 1 April 2000, following a public consultation and a further change to the land registration rules, the requirement was restored. All applications received by the Land Registry since that date have resulted in the price paid being entered on the register where it is practicable to do so. No information was entered retrospectively.

The register has been available online to the public since January 2005 allowing customers to search the register and download title registers, plans and deeds.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for which countries his Department has prepared country business plans in relation to human trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [71116]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office is currently developing a list of priority countries in relation to human trafficking. As set out in the Government's strategy on human trafficking, we will work with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that the aims of the strategy are included in the Country Business Plans for each of these priority countries.

National Offender Management Service Young Adult Offender Project

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the National Offender Management Service Young Adult Offender Project report on *(a)* the Review of the Custodial Estate Provisions for Young Adult Offenders and *(b)* the Review of Community Provisions for Young Adult Offenders, completed in 2006; [71272]

(2) on what dates the Young Adult Offenders Project Board has met; and if he will place a copy of the minutes of each of those meetings in the Library; [71273]

(3) whether the National Offender Management Service Young Adult Offenders Project commissioned a detailed cost/benefit analysis in support of its proposals to deal with young adults in the prison estate; and if he will place a copy of any such assessment in the Library. [71341]

Mr Blunt: The Young Adult Offender Project informed Ministers' policy on young adult offenders but did not give rise to a published report. I understand from officials that the reports and analysis to which the hon. Member refers remained as work in progress when the project was closed. Since the project did not produce papers for publication it would not be appropriate to place those papers and minutes of meetings in the Library.

The project board met on 8 December 2005, 27 February, 27 March, 24 April, 5 June, 16 July, 4 September, 2 October, 5 November, 5 December 2006 and 20 March 2007.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what information his Department holds on the number of former armed service personnel who were subjects of a court report in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; [71361]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of former armed service personnel remanded in custody in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [71362]

Mr Djanogly: In September 2010, the MOJ and Ministry of Defence published the results of a joint study to estimate how many prisoners in England and Wales had been in the regular armed forces. The report, based on the prison population as at

6 November 2009, showed that 3.5% (2,820) of prisoners had served in the regular armed forces, and of these, 11.3% were on remand. This report may be found in the House of Commons Libraries and at the following web link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&pubType=3

Information on the number of court reports prepared specifically for former armed service personnel is not held centrally by the Department.

Probation

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the size was of the probation caseload in England and Wales on 31 March 2011. [71601]

Mr Blunt: The total number of offenders supervised by the probation service on 31 March 2001 was 236,543. This figure is published quarterly on the Ministry of Justice website.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sentencing: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a custodial sentence at York *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in (i) 1997 and (ii) each subsequent year. [71498]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to immediate custody at York local justice area and Crown court, for all offences from 1997 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Number of persons sentenced to immediate custody at York local justice area and Crown court, for all offences from 1997 to 2010[1,2]

Court type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
York local justice area[3]	108	161	227	239	202	139	196	228	200	118	119	164	206	209
York Crown court	282	359	376	397	448	407	360	415	448	417	387	351	440	372

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] May include more than one magistrates court.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Travellers: Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has provided in legal aid to Travellers at the Dale Farm site in Essex in each of the last three years. [71553]

Mr Djanogly: The information is not readily available. I will write to my hon. Friend.

EDUCATION

Academies

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools had converted to academies as at 31 July 2011; and how many applications for conversion to an academy are outstanding. [69697]

Mr Gibb: As at 31 July 2011 529 schools had converted to academies. This was made up of *(a)* 124 primary schools and *(b)* 405 secondary schools (including 12 middle deemed secondary schools).

As at 1 September, 981 schools had converted to academies, leaving 502 applications to convert to an academy outstanding. A full list of these schools and their progress towards conversion is available on the Department for Education website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a00698l1/map-of-open-academies-and-schools-submitting-applications

Academies: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Cumbria had become academies by September 2011. [69696]

Mr Gibb: To date, two primary schools and twelve secondary schools have opened as academies in Cumbria. These are Seaton Infant School (opened September 2010), Eaglesfield Paddle C of E VA Primary School (June 2011), Queen Elizabeth School, (January 2011), Kirkbie Kendal School (April 2011), The Queen Katherine School (April 2011), Queen Elizabeth Grammar (May 2011), Appleby Grammar (August 2011), Kirkby Stephen Grammar (August 2011), Settlebeck High School (August 2011), William Howard School (August 2011), Caldew School (August 2011), Dallam School (August 2011), Cartmel Priory (September 2011) and Trinity School (September 2011).

There are four sponsored academies open in Cumbria: Richard Rose Central Academy (September 2008), Richard Rose Morton Academy (2008), West Lakes Academy (September 2008) and Furness Academy (September 2009).

Children: Day Care

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that local authorities fulfil their duties under section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006 in respect of the provision of childcare for disabled children. [70253]

Sarah Teather: Local authorities have a duty (under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006) to ensure that there is sufficient childcare locally to meet the needs of working parents and particularly families with disabled children. We want to improve the way in which local authorities keep parents informed about what they are doing to deliver this duty. The Government announced in the "Families in the Foundation Years" statement, published in July 2011,

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/early

the intention to bring forward proposals that local authorities should report annually on their Section 6 sufficiency duty, and in particular on how they are supporting families of children with disabilities to access childcare.

Local authorities have told us that the requirement (under Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006) to publish nationally prescribed sufficiency assessments every three years is burdensome. The Government consider that a local annual report would be a more effective way of enabling parents to hold their local authority to account. The Government have therefore also decided to consult on bringing forward legislation to repeal the Section 11 duty. This consultation will be published on the Department for Education's website later in the autumn.

English Baccalaureate

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received from religious groups on the English Baccalaureate. [70792]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received 2,809 pieces of correspondence about religious education and the English Baccalaureate. Due to the high volume it is not practical to place copies in the House Libraries but the key points made are covered in the records of the Westminster Hall Debate on 17 May and in evidence given by Religious Education organisations to the Education Committee.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* Punjabi, *(b)* Urdu, *(c)* Arabic, *(d)* Bengali, *(e)* Gujarati and *(f)* Hindu will be included in the English Baccalaureate. [70793]

Mr Gibb: The English Baccalaureate is designed to recognise the success of those pupils who attain GCSEs or established iGCSEs at grade A* to C across a core of academic subjects: English, maths, the sciences, a language and either history or geography. The Department for Education has published a detailed list of the GCSEs that count towards English Baccalaureate. This can be viewed at:

www.education.gov.uk/performancetables

The list includes qualifications in Panjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Bengali and Gujarati. It does not include qualifications in Hindi. This is because language qualifications which are counted towards the English Baccalaureate must have a speaking element and there are currently no Hindi GCSE qualifications which meet this requirement.

Further Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 552W, on further education, if he will publish a list of applications received by his Department to open *(a)* free schools for 16 to 19 year olds and *(b)* university technical colleges in September 2012. [70657]

Mr Gibb: The Department is still in the process of assessing the applications it has received to establish Free Schools and University Technical Colleges in 2012. As stated on 18 July, these include proposals for four 16 to 19 Free Schools and 19 UTCs. An announcement will be made around the end of September about those that are approved to move to the next stage of development.

Neil Wallis

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what communications *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his private office and *(d)* (i) press officers, (ii) other officials and (iii) special advisers of his Department have had by (A) e-mail, (B) meeting, (C) telephone call and (D) letter with Neil Wallis since his appointment; and on what dates. [68738]

Tim Loughton: A check of communications showed no record of contact between the Secretary of State for Education, other Ministers in his Department, officials in his private office, press officers, and special advisors with Neil Wallis since his appointment. The Department publishes quarterly Ministers' and Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external organisations on the website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency

A list of officials' meetings is not maintained centrally and to collect such information would incur disproportionate cost.

Physics: GCE A-Level

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that errors contained in the OCR Physics A-Level examination are taken into account by admissions tutors. [68102]

Mr Gibb: On 4 August the independent exams regulator Ofqual published a statement to reassure students and their parents about remedial work which has been undertaken by awarding organisations to address exam errors. Ofqual are satisfied that awarding organisations have taken all possible steps to ensure that no student has been unfairly disadvantaged or advantaged as a result of exam errors.

University and other higher education institution admissions tutors have been provided (via UCAS) with detailed information about the measures taken in cases involving AS and A2 papers (including those from OCR) to make sure they have been fully informed.

Ofqual have additionally been in contact with UCAS and Universities UK to ensure that useful information about the nature of errors and steps to redress has been shared, enabling these bodies to be prepared for enquiries and to assist students where necessary.

Ofqual are now conducting an inquiry into these exam errors, working in partnership with their fellow regulators in Northern Ireland and Wales. The regulators intend to complete their inquiry and publish a report by the end of the year, in time to inform actions to secure the quality of exams being taken in 2012.

Schools: Pay

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the payment of a pay award of £250 in 2011-12 to all *(a)* classroom assistants and *(b)* other school employees earning less than £21,000 per annum. [68650]

Mr Gibb: Central Government do not have a role in deciding the pay and conditions of school support staff. Pay and conditions for this group, which includes teaching assistants, are decided by their employers.

The employer of support staff in foundation and voluntary aided schools is the school's governing body. The employer of support staff in community and voluntary controlled schools is the local authority. The employer of support staff in academies and free schools is the appropriate trust.

During the two-year pay freeze, which for teachers in maintained schools started on 1 September 2011, unqualified teachers who earn a full-time salary of £21,000 or less will receive a £250 payment in each of these years in line with the recommendation made by the independent School Teachers Review Body.

Special Educational Needs

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities work with other organisations, including voluntary organisations, to develop an independent special educational needs assessment process. [69718]

Sarah Teather: The reforms to the special educational needs system in England will be tested in pathfinder areas. It is a stated condition of the pathfinder 'Invitation to Tender' document that pathfinders should work with voluntary organisations to test ways of improving the system.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice will include guidance on timescales and processes, including communications between different agencies; [69720]

(2) whether the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice will require a named and trained senior person in each school to be responsible for SEN; [69721]

(3) whether the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice will include a child's right to an identified teacher with relevant training in each school who is responsible for coordinating SEN provision; [69722]

(4) whether the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice will provide rights to children without education, health and care plans or statements but who still have special educational needs; [69723]

(5) whether the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice will include regular objective setting for individual pupils; [69724]

(6) whether the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice will have enforceable lines of accountability between *(a)* schools, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other agencies involved in providing support; [69726]

(7) whether the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice will specify a complaints and appeals process for parents and young people with special educational needs; [69727]

Sarah Teather: The current Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice sets out the duties, rights and entitlements associated with the SEN framework in England. When changes to that framework, following the SEN and disability Green Paper, are being made a revised SEN Code of Practice will consulted on and laid before the House for approval.

The revised Code will set out the timescales and processes which attach to the proposed single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan and the more multi-agency approach which will be inherent in these new features of the framework. It will set out schools' continuing duty to appoint a qualified teacher as a Special Educational Needs Coordinator, to whom children with SEN can have access. It will remind schools of their duty to do their best to make special educational provision for all children with learning difficulties, including those children identified with SEN but whose needs do not exceed what is normally available in schools and may not therefore have an Education, Health and Care Plan. It will also give advice to schools on identifying children with SEN and the approaches they can use to set targets for children and review progress without increasing bureaucratic burdens.

The revised Code will set out the expectations of all parties to an Education, Health and Care Plan and the arrangements for accountability, with the local authority having a duty to make the special educational provision. The new plans will provide the same statutory protection to parents as SEN statements including the right to appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (SEND) about local authority decisions in relation to SEN and provision to meet children's SEN. This will be reflected in a revised Code. The Green Paper gave a commitment that the Department will run pilots on giving children the right to appeal to the Tribunal.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that his proposals for special educational needs assessments do not exclude relevant professionals from the assessment process. [69728]

Sarah Teather: The proposals for special educational needs assessments in England are being tested in pathfinder areas. One of the things pathfinders have been asked to test is which professionals should be involved in the assessment process. Pathfinders will begin testing in September 2011.

Teachers: Manpower

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers were employed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) nationwide in each year since 1997. [70421]

Mr Gibb: The following table gives the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the north-east and England in each year from 1997 to 2010.

Further school work force statistics are available from the November 2010 School Workforce Statistical First Release which is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Full-time equivalent teachers in local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools. Years: 1997-2010. Coverage: Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the north-east Government office region and England

	Jarrow constituency		*South Tyneside local authority*		*North-east Government office region*		*England*	
	Nursery and primary schools	*Secondary schools*	*Nursery and primary schools*	*Secondary schools*	*Nursery and primary schools*	*Secondary schools*	*Nursery and primary schools*	*Secondary schools*
January								
1997	360	300	700	590	10,400	10,790	191,670	189,430
1998	350	300	690	580	10,280	10,650	190,100	189.5B0
1999	350	310	690	610	10,310	10,640	191,120	191,780
2000	350	320	640	590	10,190	10,740	193,100	193,200
2001	360	340	680	650	10,350	11,070	194,960	196,680
2002	340	360	660	700	10,440	11,380	197,370	203,170
2003	330	350	630	690	10,210	11,340	197,430	206,670
2004	320	350	630	680	10,170	11,270	196,640	211,000
2005	310	350	610	670	10,050	11,430	196,270	215,060
2006	310	360	590	720	10,070	11,440	193,190	216,290
2007	300	360	580	680	10,020	11,450	197,100	216,850
2008	300	360	570	690	9,920	11,450	198,090	215,270
2009	300	340	590	670	9,840	11,150	198,540	212,580
2010	310	390	530	680	9,810	10,920	200,860	210,260
November								
2010	340	340	550	640	9,790	9,910	195,740	192,980

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Sources:
School Census, (parliamentary constituency figures). Form 618g Survey and School Workforce Census , (November 2010)

Teaching Assistants: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teaching assistants were employed in maintained schools in Warrington borough *(a)* in May 2010 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [70757]

Mr Gibb: The information requested was collected in January and November 2010. The full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in maintained schools in Warrington local authority in January 2010 was 860. In November 2010 there were 780 teaching assistants employed in Warrington local authority.

The January 2010 figure was collected through the School Census. The School Workforce Census (SWF) was run, in its complete form, for the first time in autumn 2010 and is the source for the November figure. Although the SWF was designed to provide figures that are comparable with those from the earlier survey data providers may not have categorised staff roles in the same way and therefore the two figures provided may not be equivalent.

Further school work force statistics are available from the November 2010 School Workforce Statistical First Release which is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

HEALTH

Alzheimer's Disease: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in Newham in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [71383]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not centrally held. However, the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of patients registered with practices in England who have had a diagnosis of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. This information is available by financial year only and is presented in the following table for Newham Primary Care Trust.

Financial year	*Number of patients on QOF dementia register in Newham Primary Care Trust*
2007-08	690
2008-09	725
2009-10	808

Source:
Quality and Outcomes Framework

The hon. Member may wish to contact Newham Primary Care Trust for more specific information.

Ambulance Services: Manpower

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information data his Department holds on the number of ambulance staff in band *(a)* 4, *(b)* 5, *(c)* 6 and *(d)* 7 employed in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2011. [71217]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Bowel Cancer: Screening

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who participated in the bowel cancer screening programme *(a)* in Bolton and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [71085]

Paul Burstow: Roll-out of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme began in April 2006 and full roll-out was completed in August 2010. The programme currently invites men and women aged 60 to 69 to participate in screening every two years and it is in the process of being extended to invite men and women up to their 75th birthday.

As of July this year 10,071,589 people had been invited and 5,528,266 had been adequately screened (54.89%). Adequately screened means the return of a testing kit that produces a definitive test result. It should be noted that these figures include people who have been invited by the programme for screening more than once on separate screening rounds.

Figures for the Bolton screening centre over the same period show that 208,328 people had been invited and 105,396 people had been adequately screened (50.59%).

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have accessed drugs through the Cancer Drugs Fund. [71167]

Mr Simon Burns: The Cancer Drugs Fund was launched on 1 April 2011. Over three years, the Fund is providing £200 million a year to help thousands of cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. As an interim measure, an additional £50 million was made available to strategic health authorities in 2010-11 to support improved access to cancer drugs. The funding we have made available since October 2010 has so far helped over 5,000 cancer patients in England to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended.

Community Nurses

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the district nurse service. [71093]

Anne Milton: District nurses deliver safe high quality care in the community both to patients currently receiving care in hospitals and to the growing numbers of older people with multiple health and care needs. It is for local commissioners and providers to ensure they have the work force to meet these changing health care needs.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the green book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by his Department as of March 2011. [71225]

Mr Simon Burns: Two NHS trusts—Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospitals NHS Trust—were in the procurement phase of the private finance initiative (PFI) process in March 2011. Both schemes followed the Green Book guidance and the percentage by which the public sector comparator was uplifted in the economic analysis to reflect the additional tax take that accrues to the Government from the private finance option was 6% in both cases.

This economic analysis was done for the Outline Business Cases (OBCs) at the pre-market appraisal stage and therefore is not used to assess tax takes from specific providers after contracts have been signed.

Two NHS foundation trusts—Papworth Hospitals NHS Foundation NHS Trust and Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust—exercised their powers as foundation trusts to take forward PFI schemes which were also in the procurement phase in March 2011. The OBCs for these schemes were not reviewed for approval purposes by the Department prior to March 2011. The information requested is therefore a matter for Papworth Hospitals NHS Foundation NHS Trust and Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to the respective chairs of these two trusts, Robert Burgin at Papworth and Sir David Henshaw at Alder Hey, informing them of the hon. Member's inquiry. They will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71142]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department received 1,322 written questions due for answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011. Of those, nine questions, or 1%, were not answered substantively on the day named for answer.

Between 9 March and 19 July 2011, the Department received 523 written questions due for answer on a named day. Of those, one question, or 0.2%, was not answered substantively on the day named for answer.

Euthanasia

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers of his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the Dementia Champion on assisted suicide; what his policy is on assisted suicide; and if he will make a statement; [R] [71018]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the recent statements by his Department's Dementia Champion on assisted dying; what response he gave to the representations; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71080]

Paul Burstow: The comments attributed to Martin Green were made in his capacity as the chief executive of the English Community Care Association, and not in his role as the Dementia Champion for the independent sector, and do not reflect the Government's position.

The Government believe that any changes to the law, in this emotive and contentious area are an issue of individual conscience and a matter for Parliament to decide rather than Government policy. Assisted dying remains unlawful in the United Kingdom. This is the position that Ministers have set out in response to any inquiries on this matter.

Neither Ministers nor officials from the Department have had any discussions with Mr Green about assisted suicide. A departmental official spoke to Mr Green to confirm that his comments were made in his role as chief executive of the English Community Care Association and not in his capacity as Dementia Champion. Ministers have not met with, or discussed this matter with, Mr Green.

General Practitioners: Pensions

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the sums accruing to the Exchequer in respect of GP pensions in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will reconsider the proposed reform of GP pensions. [71241]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioners (GPs) have access to the NHS pension scheme. The following table provided by the NHS Pensions Agency illustrates the sum of contributions paid by GPs between 2009 and 2011.

GP contributions to the NHS pension scheme

£000

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Employer contributions	463,000	470,754
Employee contributions	365,858	317,225
Total contributions	829,426	787,979

Source:
The NHS pension scheme and NHS compensation for retirement scheme resource accounts

Contributions made by and on behalf of GPs are to pay for pension promises being built up and are assessed by the scheme actuary using SCAPE methodology (Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience).

The amount paid out by the NHS Pensions Agency in respect of former GP members in receipt of pensions is not available separately.

In March 2011, the independent Public Service Pensions Commission chaired by Lord Hutton concluded that given increased longevity and changes in working patterns, current arrangements for public sector pensions are unfair and unsustainable and that reform is needed.

Methadone: Wirral

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people living in the Wirral have been using methadone for *(a)* up to one year, *(b)* up to two years, *(c)* up to five years and *(d)* 10 years or more. [71675]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

Data on the number of people receiving a prescribing intervention for their opioid dependency in the Wirral in 2009-10 and showing how long they have been continuously receiving substitute prescribing is shown in the following table.

Length of stay in prescribing	*Number*
Less than 12 months	454
1-2 years	256
2-3 years	170
3-4 years	114
4 years +	967
Total in prescribing	1,961

Notes:
1. The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and other drugs such as buprenorphine which are also recommended for the treatment of drug misuse by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).
2. The National Treatment Agency took over full responsibility for managing NDTMS in 2004-05. Only the annual data from 2005-06 onwards are considered robust enough to provide detailed information about individual treatment journeys. This means that 2009-10 was the first year that robust data for those in treatment for four years or more are available.

NICE recommends that substitute prescribing should always be accompanied by psychosocial interventions. In addition "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management" (2007); a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, states that any decision to maintain a patient on long-term prescribing should be an active one agreed between the clinician and patient, reviewed at regular intervals, and part of a broader programme of care-planned social and psychological support.

Tomography: Waiting Lists

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people waited more than six weeks for *(a)* MRI and *(b)* CT scans in (i) Bolton and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [71083]

Mr Simon Burns: Latest figures (31 July 2011) for the numbers of people waiting more than six weeks for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scans in Bolton and England are provided as follows.

Waiting times for MRI and CT scans in Bolton primary care trust (PCT) (Commissioner level data) on 31 July 2011

Name	*Diagnostic test name*	*Total waiting list*	*Number waiting 6+ weeks*
Bolton PCT	MRI	431	9
Bolton PCT	CT	233	2

Waiting times for MRI and CT scans in England (Commissioner level data) on 31 July 2011

Diagnostic test name	*Total waits list*	*Number waiting 6+ weeks*
MRI	107,329	804
CT	65,191	691

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Abdelbaset al-Megrahi

Gordon Banks: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has had any discussions with *(a)* the First Minister of Scotland and *(b)* other Ministers in the Scottish Government on the possible return to the UK of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi since 1 February 2011. [71343]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have not had any such discussions with the First Minister of Scotland or any other Ministers in the Scottish Government. The possible return to the UK of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi is a matter for the Scottish Government, not the UK Government.

Departmental Responsibilities

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what dates he stood in for the Prime Minister between 24 December 2010 and 6 January 2011. [67946]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Prime Minister remains the head of the Government including when he is on holiday or away from London, whether for Government business or not. When away from the office, he has Downing street staff with him and he is in regular contact with staff and senior ministerial colleagues in London. Over the holiday periods, I and other senior Ministers are on hand to deal with urgent issues arising in London.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71137]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The figures are shown in the following table:

Dates	*Number of named day questions tabled*	*Number of questions answered substantively on the specified date*
9 March to 19 July 2011	30	24
27 May 2010 to 19 July 2011	116	83

CABINET OFFICE

Cross-Departmental Working

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent steps he has taken to promote effective cross-departmental working. [70794]

Mr Maude: Departments are responsible for spending money wisely and for delivering excellent public services, and they are already delivering substantial reform programmes within their delivery chains. However, in many areas departments are unable to secure maximum value for money, and unable to reform services in the most effective manner by working in isolation.

The Cabinet Office provides a cross-Government centre of expertise through the Efficiency and Reform Group, which was setup to work across departmental boundaries where this is the best way to tackle waste, improve efficiency and reform the way services are delivered.

A recent example is the £360 million saved across departments by centralising spend on common goods and services. We have also established Crown Commercial Representatives, who saved over £800 million last year by renegotiating deals with some of our largest suppliers on a cross-Government basis. We are also promoting centres of excellence in departments where others are best placed to lead for the Crown. This includes the Next Generation HR shared service which DWP is delivering, and the Government's ICT strategy where elements of the implementation programme are being led by different departments.

Drugs: Misuse

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths related to drug poisoning or misuse there were in each year since 2000; and how many were incurred by offenders who had been released within two weeks from prison [71718]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths related to drug poisoning or misuse there were in each year since 2000; and how many were incurred by offenders who had been released within two weeks from prison. (71718)

The table provides the number of deaths where (i) the underlying cause was drug poisoning and (ii) the underlying cause was drug poisoning and any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, for 2000 to 2010 (the latest year available).

It is not possible to determine from information collected at death registration whether the deceased was an offender who had recently been released from prison, since this information is not routinely recorded.

The number of deaths related to drug poisoning registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause and the specific substance involved are published annually on the National Statistics website. The latest Statistical Bulletin on deaths from drug-related poisoning was published on 23 August 2011 at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/subnational-health3/deaths-related-to-drug-poisoning/2010/index.html

Table 1: Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning and drug misuse, England and Wales, 2000-10[1, 2, 3]

		Deaths (persons)
	All drug poisonings	*Drug misuse*
2000	2,932	1,604
2001	3,093	1,808
2002	2,830	1,613
2003	2,623	1,432
2004	2,787	1,497
2005	2,762	1,608
2006	2,570	1,560
2007	2,640	1,727
2008	2,928	1,939
2009	2,878	1,876

Table 1: Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning and drug misuse, England and Wales, 2000-10[1, 2, 3]

		Deaths (persons)
	All drug poisonings	*Drug misuse*
2010	2,747	1,784

[1] Cause of death for was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth revision (ICD-9) for the year 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD 10) from 2001 onwards. The ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes for drug poisoning are shown in Box 1 as follows. Figures for drug misuse include all drug poisoning deaths where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Deaths in England and Wales include non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes for deaths related to drug poisoning

Description	*ICD 10 Codes*	*ICD 9 Codes*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19	292, 304, 305.2-305.9
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44	E850-E858
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64	E950.0-E950.5
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85	E962.0
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14	E980.0-E980.5

Ex-servicemen: Medals

Mrs Moon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals held meetings to discuss the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal; what the cost of each such meeting was; and if he will make a statement. [71148]

Mr Maude: The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals discussed the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal at its meeting on 7 December 2005. There were no direct costs associated with this meeting.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involved *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs, *(c)* rabbits, *(d)* horses and other equids, *(e)* new world primates and *(f)* old world primates in 2010; and how many such procedures involved (i) genetically-modified animals and (ii) animals with a harmful genetic defect. [67999]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2010, in Scotland, there were four procedures using cats, 720 procedures using dogs, 3,826 procedures using rabbits, 2,380 procedures using horses and other equids, 47 procedures using new world primates and 885 procedures using old world primates used in regulated procedures started under the 1986 Act. None of these procedures involved (i) genetically modified animals and (ii) animals with a harmful genetic defect.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of antisocial behaviour were reported to the police in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England and Wales in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [70096]

James Brokenshire: The number of antisocial behaviour incidents recorded by the police in each of the specified areas are provided in the table. These figures relate to the police record of antisocial behaviour incidents; that is, the number of "calls to service" received by them.

Antisocial behaviour incidents recorded by the police (non-National Statistics)[1]

		Number
	2009-10[2]	*2010-11[3]*
South Tyneside	12,222	11,886
North East Region	249,744	229,448
England and Wales	3,532,297	3,235,977

[1] All police forces currently use the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) to record incidents which are reported to them. While incidents are recorded under NSIR in accordance with the same 'victim focused' approach that applies for recorded crime, these figures are not accredited National Statistics and are not subject to the same level of quality assurance as the main recorded crime collection.

[2] Management information on ASB incidents were collected by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

[3] Management information on ASB incidents were collected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2010-11.

Asylum: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants she estimates are living in York. [71497]

Damian Green: The number of asylum applicants with a last known address with a 'YO' postcode listed is 62. This figure relates to main applicants with first time asylum claims that have yet to be concluded. All applications were made on or after 21 June 2005.

As cases are decided or applicants inform UK Border Agency of a change of address the number of applicants in York will change.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Burglary

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of domestic burglary were reported in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [70089]

James Brokenshire: Data are not centrally available for Jarrow.

The Home Office collects data on the numbers of offences recorded by the police. Data are provided in the following tables for cases of domestic burglary in South Tyneside, the North East and for England and Wales.

Table 1: Burglary in a dwelling offences recorded by the police in 1997

Area	*1997*
Jarrow Constituency	[1]—
South Tyneside CDRP/CSP	[1]—
North East Region	31,310
England and Wales	519,265

[1] Data not centrally available.

Notes:

1. These data are not comparable with those for later years due to the counting rules and offence coverage in use at the time.
2. Prior to 2009-10, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were referred to as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs).

Table 2: Burglary in a dwelling offences recorded by the police from 1998-99 to 2001-02

Area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Jarrow Constituency	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
South Tyneside CDRP/CSP	[1]—	1,351	1,337	1,115
North East Region	28.806	24,300	21,720	23,614
England and Wales	473,349	442,602	402,984	430,347

[1] Data not centrally available.

Notes:

1. These data are not comparable with those before or after this period due to the counting rules and extended offence coverage in use at the time.

2. Prior to 2009-10, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were referred to as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs).

Table 3: Burglary in a dwelling offences recorded by the police from 2002-03 to 2010-11

Area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Jarrow Constituency	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
South Tyneside CDRP/CSP	1,169	1,036	792	647	606	489	424	306	235
North East Region	21,583	19,550	14,934	13,095	12,303	10,881	10,408	8,597	7,618
England and Wales (inc. BTP)	437,583	402,345	321,507	300,517	292,260	280.696	284,431	268,610	258,148

[1] Data not centrally available.

Notes:

1. These data are not comparable with previous years data to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) across all forces in April 2002.

2. Prior to 2009-10, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were referred to as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs).

Cannabis: Crime

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police raids on properties in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency resulted in the discovery of cannabis farms in the last 12 months. [70805]

James Brokenshire: The information requested on the number of cannabis farms discovered in the areas concerned is not held centrally.

Figures are available by police area, which in this case is Thames Valley Police. The most recent figures were published in the UK National Problem Profile, Commercial Cultivation of Cannabis, July 2010. The Association of Chief Police Officers found there to be 172 cannabis farms in the Thames Valley Police area representing eight farms per 100,000 population.

Civil Disorder

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 11 August 2011, on public disorder, *Official Report*, columns 1051-1105, what her latest estimate is of the likely cost of insurance payments to policyholders who suffered losses in the August 2011 disturbances; and if she will estimate the total cost to the public purse of the disturbances including a breakdown of expenditure for each purpose. [69783]

Nick Herbert: There is, as yet, no estimate for the total cost of insurance payments or cost to the public purse resulting from the disorder in August 2011. Discussions are ongoing between the Home Office, HM Treasury, police authorities and the Claims Bureau to assess the financial impact of the recent disorder.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid to each individual for claims submitted under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [69825]

Nick Herbert: Claims for compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 are made directly to the police authorities, which take the final decision as to whether a payment is made, and the size of that payment. These data are not held centrally.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested in England and Wales in connection with public disorder in August 2011. [70126]

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested in England and Wales following the public disorder in August 2011. [71183]

Nick Herbert: The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people arrested who were dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes, the Ministry of Justice chief statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. It is intended to release further data on 13 September. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward proposals to amend or repeal the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. [70133]

Nick Herbert: We are in the process of reviewing the Act and are considering all options for reform. However, the legislation still remains in place and claims for compensation following the recent disorder can still be made from businesses and households to police authorities.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses *(a)* in

Birmingham and *(b)* elsewhere in England have sought to claim damages under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 since August 2011. [70488]

Nick Herbert: It is not yet possible to provide information on the number of claims received for businesses as the data are still being received and collated locally. Claims for compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 are made to the local police authority, who assess claims made to them and take the final decision as to whether a payment is made, and the size of that payment. The Home Office is supporting police authorities to enable these claims to be processed quickly.

Confiscation Orders

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were removed at the request of the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since 2006. [70444]

Damian Green: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) routinely monitors any case of interest to them where a Judge recommends a deportation at end of sentence, or where an individual will automatically be considered for deportation by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) by virtue of their length of sentence.

SOCA notifies the UKBA of convicted cases where they have an interest, but this does not signify a request to remove.

In addition to those cases where convictions have been obtained SOCA has referred to UKBA 14 individuals of interest to establish if an immigration solution can be presented as a means of disrupting organised criminal activity, principally through removal of the individual from the United Kingdom. Of those 14 cases three individuals were identified as having left the UK; two were reviewed but are not removable currently, and nine are being monitored and if appropriate will be considered for removal action.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of criminal assets recovered by the Serious Organised Crime Agency through the use of *(a)* its taxation powers, *(b)* civil recovery, *(c)* criminal confiscation and *(d)* cash forfeiture in each year since 2006. [70445]

Nick Herbert: Since 2006 the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has recovered criminal assets with the following monetary value:

£ million

	Civil recovery and tax receipts[1]	*Confiscation orders enforced*	*Cash forfeiture*
2006-07	n/a	4.3	2.3
2007-08	n/a	8.0	2.9
2008-09	16.7	7.0	4.5
2009-10	6.8	7.4	10.2
2010-11	8.0	7.6	4.7

[1] SOCA did not have civil recovery and tax powers prior to April 2008.

Civil recovery and tax receipts [illegible] shown as a combined figure because in a number of cases a single settlement figure is agreed.

Crime

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* crime related to vehicles, *(b)* burglary of a dwelling, *(c)* other burglary, *(d)* criminal damage, *(e)* theft, *(f)* violence and *(g)* other crimes were committed in (i) Coventry and (ii) Warwickshire in each of the last five years. [70344]

James Brokenshire: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and is given in the following tables:

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in Coventry

Offence	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Offences against vehicles	5,828	3,862	3,887	3,458	3,929
Burglary in a dwelling	2,431	2,152	2,164	2,195	2,715
Burglary in other building	2,218	1,917	1,623	1,782	1,744
Criminal damage	8,120	6,600	5,976	5,723	5,221
Other theft offences[1]	6,562	5,758	5,467	5,446	5,860
Violence against the person	7,592	7,229	6,631	6,552	5,153
Other crimes	4,210	3,499	3,364	3,322	3,159
Total	36,961	31,017	29,112	28,478	27,781

[1] Excluding offences against vehicles.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in Warwickshire

Offence	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Offences against vehicles	7,649	5,790	5,769	4,740	4,268
Burglary in a dwelling	2,844	2,373	2,216	2,261	2,014
Burglary in other building	3,601	3,173	3,428	3,262	3,305
Criminal damage	10,267	9,234	8,006	6,458	6,016
Other theft offences[1]	8,686	7,818	8,251	7,860	8,075
Violence against the person	7,386	7,526	5,957	5,302	5,369
Other crimes	4,824	4,054	3,741	3,945	3,780
Total	45,257	39,968	37,368	33,828	32,827

[1] Excluding offences against vehicles.

Crime Prevention

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the introduction of gang injunctions. [70150]

James Brokenshire: The Government introduced gang injunctions for adults in January 2011. As we announced last month we will make them available for 14 to 17 year olds by the end of the year.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of written questions tabled to her for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71129]

Damian Green: From 27 May 2010 until 19 July 2011, the Home Office gave a substantive answer to 425 out of 1,241 (34.2%) questions on the day named for answer. From 9 March 2011 until 19 July 2011, the Home Office gave a substantive answer to 154 out of 449 (34.3%) questions on the day named for answer.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Sufi and Elmi *v.* the United Kingdom, what steps she plans to take to protect the public from foreign offenders living in the UK who cannot be deported. [63853]

Damian Green: During their custodial sentence foreign national prisoners are managed in the same way as other prisoners. They are referred to the UK Border Agency by the National Offender Management Service to establish their immigration status near to the start of their sentence.

The UK Border Agency seeks to deport from the UK foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria:

A court recommendation.

For non-EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years, or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (other than possession).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

Deportation is pursued where possible.

Where deportation is pursued, but delayed due to documentation and other issues, at the end of an individual's custodial sentence the UK Border Agency will decide if detention under immigration powers is appropriate. Every detention decision is made on a case by case basis. The criminal history is considered in terms of the potential risk of harm to the public if a foreign criminal is released. Those who are detained have always been able to apply to an independent immigration judge for bail. Where the UK Border Agency believes there is a risk to the public we will vigorously oppose bail applications or ask the court to impose reporting and electronic tagging restrictions if bail is granted.

In terms of managing the risk of reoffending in the community foreign offenders are treated in the same way as British offenders.

Foreign offenders who are eligible for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), by the nature of the offence they have committed and sentence received, are managed in the same way as British MAPPA eligible offenders. All MAPPA eligible offenders are identified following sentence. Information is shared with relevant agencies and a risk assessment conducted to ensure an appropriate risk management plan is in place for the offenders management in the community.

Detention Centres: Death

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what investigations she has undertaken into deaths in immigration detention which occurred during August 2011; and if she will publish the findings of any such investigation; [70818]

(2) what deaths occurred in immigration detention in each month of each of the last five years. [70820]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 September 2011]*: The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) is currently investigating a death that occurred in immigration detention in August 2011. Upon completion the findings of the investigation will be published on the PPO website.

The police are informed of any deaths that occur of individuals detained in, or travelling to or from, an immigration removal centre in the care of UK Border Agency staff or its contractors. They take a decision independent of the UK Border Agency as to whether or not a police investigation is appropriate. All deaths are also referred to the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman who conduct a separate investigation in to the circumstances of the death.

Following the conclusion of the investigation, the office of the PPO will publish an anonymised report on its website.

Five deaths have occurred in the last five years of individuals detained in, or travelling to or from, an immigration removal centre as follows:

April 2010

October 2010

July 2011—two unrelated incidents

August 2011.

It would be inappropriate to comment on the details of these deaths whilst they are the subject of ongoing investigations by the PPO. When concluded, the Ombudsman's report of his investigation will be published on the PPO website.

Domestic Violence

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance her Department provides to victims of domestic violence who flee their homes. [70182]

Lynne Featherstone: For the next four years the Home Office has committed over £28 million of funding for specialist services to tackle violence against women and girls.

For domestic violence this includes:

national helplines including the National Domestic Violence helpline, Respect, the Men's Advice Line and Broken Rainbow;

support for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) nationally;

investment in the training and quality assurance process for MARACs and IDVAs; and

a contribution to the running costs of the joint Home Office/Foreign Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit.

Decisions around the provision of accommodation and services for victims of domestic abuse are a local matter and it is the responsibility of the individual local authority to identify any gaps in service provision and put in place appropriate solutions to address this. We would expect local authorities to build services based on the needs of their communities, taking account of locally available data sources. In 2009-10—the most recent year for which data are available—local authorities spent £70.9 million on housing related support for victims of domestic violence.

Drugs: Crime

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the street value of illegal drugs confiscated during police raids in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency in each of the last five years. [70806]

James Brokenshire: The information requested on drug seizures is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Drug seizures are not recorded by street value due to the value of illegal drugs varying according to a number of factors including: purity, availability, demand and locality.

Seizures are therefore usually recorded by weight and/or or units.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on support for individuals who have paid course fees and application fees to colleges subsequently disaccredited by the UK Border Agency. [71191]

Damian Green: Where the UK Border Agency revokes the licence of a Tier 4 sponsor their students have 60 days to find another college that is willing to sponsor them or to leave the UK. The new sponsor must issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies and the student must apply for new leave to remain. We would expect colleges to have insurance in place in order to repay fees if necessary, and students should check the position before accepting an offer.

Our reforms mean that in future only responsible colleges offering high quality education will be able to sponsor students to come to the UK.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removals involving individuals granted entry clearance to the UK via the student visa route there have been in each of the last five years. [71192]

Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency standard reports record removals either on the basis of the immigration offence (i.e. illegal working, overstaying) or the removal category (i.e. enforced removal, voluntary departure). The entry clearance route under which the applicant originally entered the UK is not recorded within these removal reports.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from colleges on proposed changes to the student visa system. [71193]

Damian Green: The Government are making radical changes to the immigration system. The old student visa regime was open to widespread abuse and failed to protect legitimate students from being exploited by poor quality colleges. The changes we are implementing will tighten up the system, tackle abuse and continue to attract the brightest and the best students from across the world. We have had a significant amount of correspondence from colleges, as they seek to understand and adapt to the new system.

Forensic Science Service

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's plans are for the archive of the Forensic Science Service. [70660]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The Forensic Science Service archive will remain publicly-owned, and historical data within the archive will continue to be available to the criminal justice system.

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide a breakdown of the costs to date of closing down the Forensic Science Service. [70661]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The Forensic Science Service (FSS) has been making significant financial losses and we are determined to make the managed closure as cost-effective to the taxpayer as possible. To date the Government have provided the FSS with £20 million of funding to maintain operational continuity during the transition as well as £8.7 million to cover staff redundancy payments.

The final cost of the managed closure is not yet known.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* transaction date, *(b)* transaction amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by the (i) UK Passport Agency and (ii) Parole Board using the Government Procurement Card in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and which of these transactions attracted level three or enhanced transaction entry. [70836]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* In the financial year 2008-09 the Identity and Passport Service (formerly the UK Passport Agency) total Government Procurement Card (GPC) expenditure was £711,586.15 and in 2009-10 it was £357,000. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of GPC transactions for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 without incurring disproportionate cost.

A schedule of corporate charge card transactions for the Parole Board, an arm's length body of the Ministry of Justice, will be placed in the House of Commons Library. There were no GPC transactions in 2008-09 and 2009-10 which were level three or required enhanced transaction entry.

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by her Department as of March 2011. [71224]

Damian Green: The Home Office, its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) did not have any private finance initiative projects in procurement as of March 2011. Had it done so, the economic assessment of options would have been carried out in accordance with HM Treasury's Value for Money model which accompanies the Green Book.

Hillsborough Independent Panel

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Hillsborough Independent Panel has met since it was formed. [70045]

Nick Herbert: The Hillsborough Independent Panel's terms of reference indicate that it is expected to meet monthly. In accordance with its terms of reference it has now met 19 times since its first meeting in February 2010.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many documents the Hillsborough Independent Panel has reviewed. [70063]

Nick Herbert: The Hillsborough Independent Panel is accessing and researching hundreds of thousands of documents and other materials relating to the context, circumstances and aftermath of the disaster. It will publish a comprehensive, independent and analytical report and establish a public archive. I understand that it is the panel's intention to publish all documents simultaneously.

Immigration

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who have been in the UK without valid leave to remain for longer than 10 years. [71073]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the information requested. It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of individuals currently in the UK without valid leave to remain, as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country at a majority of the points of entry to the UK but is not yet fully rolled out. The Government are committed to ensuring that the number of UK ports undertaking exit checks is increased to ensure a complete travel history record on all passengers.

The UK Border Agency is currently in the process of establishing local immigration teams across the UK to gather intelligence, tackle illegal working, and track down and detain immigration offenders. The focus of these teams will include the prevention and disruption of illegal activity and the arrest and removal of offenders.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North (Mr Winnick) of 9 August 2011 regarding the proposed reduction in the number of police in the West Midlands. [70662]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* I wrote to the hon. Gentleman on 22 August 2011.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to answer the letter sent to the Minister for Immigration by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) on 4 July 2011 with regard to Mrs S Rahman. [69815]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 6 September 2011.

Telephone Hacking

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had discussions with the Metropolitan police on allegations of telephone hacking of *(a)* public figures and *(b)* victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland. [66158]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 July 2011]:* The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), discussed the allegations of phone hacking generally with the Metropolitan Police.

North Yorkshire Police: Expenditure

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the North Yorkshire police authority has spent in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1996-97. [71496]

Nick Herbert: While the Government provide core police funding, spending decisions are made locally by the chief constables and police authorities. Data on expenditure are not collected centrally. However, this information is published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Nottinghamshire Police Authority

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours officers in Nottinghamshire police spent on front-line activities in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [70505]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* The requested information is not collected centrally.

Parliament Square: Demonstrations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to Metropolitan police officers in respect of the policing of permanent demonstrations in Parliament Square; and what factors police officers take into account in determining whether to permit or deter any demonstration at the point at which they commence. [71031]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not issue any such guidance. Section 134 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 sets out the criteria that the Metropolitan police would use to manage protest in Parliament Square. The Government are bringing forward reforms in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to ensure that Parliament Square can be enjoyed by all, and we have given a commitment to issue guidance to support effective enforcement of the new provisions.

Police

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the amount of police officer time spent on *(a)* administrative duties and *(b)* front line policing in each of the last five years; and what steps she plans to take to monitor the balance of such time in the future; [66820]

(2) what proportion of police officer time on average was spent on administration and internal organisation in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement. [66811]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* According to the Front Line Policing Measure commissioned by the last Government, police officers spent 21.7% of their time on paperwork and 13.8% on patrol in 2007-08, the last year for which figures were available.

The Government are clear that the police should focus on police work not paperwork and the Home Office is now engaged in a comprehensive programme of action to deliver this commitment. That is why on 9 May 2011 I announced a new package of policies that will cut police bureaucracy, saving up to 2.5 million police hours per year.

In moving away from central control to local accountability it will be for chief constables to monitor how they use their resources to cut crime.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which foreign countries have provided security training to police forces in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; [69358]

(2) which police forces purchased security training from outside the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [69359]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* This information is not collected centrally.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Nottinghamshire on *(a)* 5 May 2010 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available. [70310]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Police personnel data are not centrally collected for May 2010. Published statistics from the Home Office police personnel database show that as at 31 March 2010 there were 2,409 and as at 31 March 2011, there were 2,319 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in the Nottinghamshire police force area.

The latest published police personnel statistics relate to 31 March 2011 and were published in July 2011. They are available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1311/hosb1311?view=Binary

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* police civilian staff were employed by (i) West Midlands Police force and (ii) Warwickshire Police force in (A) May 2010 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. [70353]

Nick Herbert: The available information shows the number of (full-time equivalent) police officers, police community support officers and police civilian staff that were employed by West Midlands police force and Warwickshire police force as at 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011 and appears within the following table. Figures are collected on a financial year basis and the latest period for which figures are available are as at 31 March 2011.

Number of police officers, police community support officers and police civilian staff that were employed by West Midlands police force and Warwickshire police force, as at 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011[1]

	West Midlands		*Warwickshire*	
	2010	*2011*	*2010*	*2011*
Police Officers	8,626	8,149	973	919
Police Community Support Officers	811	758	138	136

Number of police officers, police community support officers and police civilian staff that were employed by West Midlands police force and Warwickshire police force, as at 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011[1]

	West Midlands		Warwickshire	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Police Civilian Staff	3,667	3,184	765	720

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Source:

Home Office using data received from police forces via the Annual Data Requirement

Police Custody: Death

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have died in police custody where the inquest verdict was *(a)* misadventure, *(b)* accidental death, *(c)* suicide, *(d)* manslaughter, *(e)* an open verdict, *(f)* unlawful killing and *(g)* natural causes since 1981; and in how many instances (i) no verdict was given and (ii) there was no inquest. [70378]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The information requested is not held centrally or collated by the Home Office. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) compiles annual statistics on deaths or serious injuries during or following police contact, based on referrals from police forces. These statistics are published in its annual report. The most recent report can be found on the IPCC's website at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/en/Pages/deathscustodystudy.aspx

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on police: bureaucracy, when the Reducing Bureaucracy Programme Board commenced its work; how many police forms have been standardised to date; and how many such forms are in use in all police forces. [70482]

Nick Herbert: The Reducing Bureaucracy Programme Board, chaired by Chief Constable Chris Sims, commenced its work in October 2010. The board is currently looking at the crime recording process, challenging forces to simplify their own practice. However, it is for individual forces to determine which recommendations to take forward. The board is currently evaluating the uptake of a number of its recommendations at a local level. This will be completed in October 2011.

Police: Conditions of Employment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what police policy is on paying for private medical treatment for their officers and staff; whether her Department's approval is required for such payments; and if she will make a statement. [68302]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* It is for individual chief officers to decide whether to pay for private medical treatment for their officers. Home Office guidance says that this decision should be made on a case by case basis and should be justified by a strict cost benefit analysis. However, no approval is required from the Home Secretary.

Police: Incentives

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ask the Winsor Review to consider ending the payment of annual bonuses to senior police officers. [70164]

Nick Herbert: Tom Winsor's Part 1 report recommended that the Chief Officer Bonus Scheme be suspended for two years. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), referred recommendations about police officers' pay and conditions to the police negotiating machinery and that process is ongoing.

Tom Winsor's consultation for Part 2 of his review indicates that he will consider contribution-related pay further in his second report, on longer-term reforms.

Police: Manpower

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on the proportion of police budgets spent on *(a)* frontline police officers and *(b)* administrative staff in the most recent period for which figures are available. [69900]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police community support officers there were in *(a)* South Tyneside area command, *(b)* North Tyneside area command, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since their introduction; [70090]

(2) how many police officers there were in *(a)* South Tyneside area command, *(b)* North Tyneside area command, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [70091]

Nick Herbert: Available information on police community support officers is given in tables 1 and 2 and for police officers in tables 2 and 3.

The latest published police personnel statistics relate to 31 March 2011 and were published in July 2011. They are available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1311/hosb1311?view=Binary

Table 1: Police community support officer[1] *strength*[2] *(FTE)*[3]*, South and North Tyneside basic command unit, 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2011*

	31 March				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
South Tyneside	25	24	27	37	45
North Tyneside	31	30	34	52	47

[1] 2006-07 was the first year that police community support officer strength information by basic command unit was been collected centrally.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[3] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Table 2: Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2], north-east region and England and Wales, 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2011

	31 March								
	2003	2004	2005[3]	2006[3]	2007[3]	2008[3]	2009[3]	2010[3]	2011[3]
North-east region[4]	47	155	270	296	504	585	628	806	785
England and Wales	1,176	3,418	6,214	6,769	13,497	15,805	16,507	16,918	15,820

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

[4] The north-east region includes Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police forces.

Note:

Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03

Table 3: Police officer strength[1], South and North Tyneside basic command unit[2], 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2011

	31 March								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
South Tyneside	291	303	346	352	362	341	357	326	319
North Tyneside[3]	[4]—	[4]—	390	375	376	372	391	367	353

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Information on basic command units was not collected centrally prior to 2002-03.

[3] North Tyneside BCU was formed after 2003-04. Data prior to this period are not available centrally.

[4] Not available.

Table 4: Police officer[1] strength less those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)[2] north-east region[3] and England and Wales, 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2011

	31 March							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
North East region[3]	6,597	6,767	6,823	6,749	6,859	7,004	7,177	7,413
England and Wales	125,051	124,756	123,841	121,956	123,476	127,267	131,426	137,105

	31 March						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
North East region[3]	7,442	7,365	7,313	7,196	7,350	7,290	7,052
England and Wales	139,491	139,631	140,032	139,728	141,647	141,631	136,994

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short-term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

[3] The north-east region includes Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police forces.

Police: Pay

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to ensure that police officers receive incremental pay increases comparable to employees in other public services; and if she will make a statement. [70695]

Nick Herbert: The Part 1 Report of the Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions recommended that police officers and all members of police staff below the top of their pay scale should be suspended at that increment for a two-year period commencing in September 2011.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), referred recommendations (including this one) about police officers' pay and conditions to the police negotiating machinery. She will consider the outcome of that process carefully before any decisions are made as to the implementation of the review's recommendations.

Prevent Funding

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she will be taking to review the balance between the three main areas of Prevent funding; and how she will communicate the outcomes of such reviews to Parliament. [70490]

James Brokenshire: The Prevent strategy identifies three main areas of funding: Policing and Domestic Prevent expenditure, both funded by the Home Office and Overseas Prevent expenditure, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In 2011-12, the Home Office has allocated approximately £36 million for policing and domestic Prevent activity, and the FCO has allocated approximately £10 million for overseas activity. As delivery of the new Prevent strategy progresses, the balance of funding will be reviewed to ensure it remains proportionate to the threats we face, is targeted to deliver Prevent objectives, reaches people who are most vulnerable to radicalisation and provides value for money. We will publish an annual report on our counter-terrorism work, which will include delivery of the Prevent strategy.

Prisoners' Release

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Serious and Organised Crime Agency altered the licence conditions of released prisoners in each year since 2006. [70062]

Nick Herbert: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) does not, and cannot, unilaterally alter the licence conditions of offenders released from prison as this is a matter for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). However, SOCA works within a partnership agreement with NOMS to create additional and bespoke licence conditions to prevent organised criminals from reoffending upon release, in compliance with the European convention on human rights.

Under these arrangements, SOCA has, since 2006, requested the number of additional licence conditions set out as follows:

	Number
2006	0
2007	8
2008	16
2009	27
2010	10
2011	[1]6

[1] Including one on temporary release.

Terrorism

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. [70948]

Mrs May: The new Prevent strategy was published on 7 June 2011. It outlines three key objectives; responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism, supporting individuals at risk of radicalisation and working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

Vetting

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enhanced disclosures have been made by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since 2007. [71426]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued almost 17 million enhanced certificates since January 2007, broken down as follows:

Certificates issued

	Number
2007	3,050,148
2008	3,345,015
2009	3,848,836
2010	4,119,250
2011 (as at 31 August)	2,613,597
Total	16,976,846

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate per thousand population is of registrations on the Violent and Sex Offender Register in each English county. [70317]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: ViSOR (previously known as the violent and sex offenders register) is a UK-wide computer database system used to store and share information and intelligence on individuals posing a risk of serious harm, including but not limited to registered sex offenders.

Data on the total number of registered sexual offenders per 100,000 head of population are published for each police force area within the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual report for that area.

The reports for 2009-10 may be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/mappa-reports/index.htm

The MAPPA area annual reports for 2010-11 will be published on 27 October 2011.

West Midlands and Warwickshire Police Authorities

Mr Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget out-turn was of the *(a)* West Midlands police authority and *(b)* Warwickshire police authority in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each year since 2005-06. [70354]

Nick Herbert: Information about the budget out-turn of Warwickshire and West Midlands police authorities is not collected centrally. However, these data are available on the respective police authorities' websites.

TREASURY

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made against the Government's timetable for compensation payments to Equitable Life policyholders. [71453]

Mr Hoban: Payments began on the 30 June. Hundreds of payments have been made to date and volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the scheme's complex payment processes are refined further.

Payments will continue in accordance with the profile set out at the spending review settlement—with £1 billion allocated to the scheme in the first three years of this spending review—and the Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments' recommendations on the prioritisation of payments.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of Equitable Life with-profits annuitants have been paid compensation to date. [71538]

Mr Hoban: Payments began on 30 June, and hundreds of payments have been made to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the schemes complex payment processes are refined further.

Payments are being made in accordance with the payments criteria set out in the scheme rules available at:

http://www.equitablelifepaymentscheme.independent.gov.uk/docs/pdfs/elps_main_doc_final.pdf

DEFENCE

Air Force

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Order of Battle is of the Royal Air Force. [71101]

Nick Harvey: Order of Battle is not a term commonly applied by the Royal Air Force. The information in the following table is a current indication of the size and shape of the RAF:

Number of squadrons	Aircraft/Activity	Main RAF group responsible
6	Tornado GR4	1
5	Typhoon	1
1	Sentinel/Shadow	2
1	Sentry	2
3	Search and Rescue Sea King	2
3	C 130 Hercules	2
1	Command Support Air Transport Fleet	2
1	Reaper	2
1	C-17 Globemaster	2
3	Hawk	22 and 1
1	VC-10	2
1	Tristar	2
3	Tutor	22
1	King Air	22
2	Sentry/Sentinel	2
2	Griffin	22 and 2
1	Tucano	22
1	Fast Jet and Weapons Operational Evaluation Unit (OEU)	2
1	No Aircraft—AWC HQ trials and tactics, office based air exercise planning unit	2
1	Integrated Test and Evaluation Squadron	2
3	Chinook	[1]—
2	Merlin	[1]—
2	Puma	[1]—

[1] Joint Helicopter Command

Air Force: Recruitment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of his Department's television advertising campaign for Royal Air Force recruitment. [71069]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The cost of the recent television advertising campaign for Royal Air Force recruitment was £1.6 million. This is broadly comparable with the previous financial year, but reflects a saving of 47% on financial year 2008-09.

Aircraft Carriers: Equipment

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of fitting cats and traps to *(a)* one and *(b)* both Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers; whether he plans to fit cats and traps to (i) HMS Queen Elizabeth and (ii) HMS Prince of Wales; and if he will make a statement. [70321]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* The Strategic Defence and Security Review called for one Queen Elizabeth (QE) class aircraft carrier to be converted to operate the more capable and cost-effective carrier variant of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The National Audit Office's report on Carrier Strike, published on 7 July 2011, estimated the cost of converting a single carrier at £800 million to £1.2 billion, a reasonable estimate based on the maturity of information currently available. We are developing more detailed cost estimates as part of our ongoing work.

A revised design is being developed to consider the cost differences between a post-build refit of the first in class, HMS Queen Elizabeth, and an in-build conversion of the second, HMS Prince of Wales. On current plans, we expect to take firm decisions on the optimum conversion solution for the operational carrier in late 2012.

Armed Forces

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of time taken is between the start of phase one training and deployable capability for an infantry soldier aged *(a)* 18 or over and *(b)* 16; and what the average cost for this period is in respect of (i) training, (ii) salary and (iii) other costs. [70674]

Nick Harvey: All infantry recruits undertake Phase 1 and Phase 2 training, to provide them with the basic infantry skills required to enter the Field Army. To reach the level required to deploy on operations, further mission specific training takes place prior to deployment.

The average length of time taken to complete Phase 1 and Phase 2 training for Standard Entry (SE) Infantry soldiers (those who are aged 17.5 years or over on enlistment) is between 28 to 30 weeks.

The average length of time taken to complete Phase 1 and Phase 2 training for Junior Entry (JE) Infantry soldiers (those aged between 16 and 17.5 years of age) is between 64 and 74 weeks.

The following table shows the average cost of Phase 1 and Phase 2 training and the average salary paid to SE and JE soldiers for the period of training. All other costs are included in the average training cost.

		Per trainee
	Average training cost	Average salary cost[1]
Junior Entry	£50,000 to £65,000	£25,000 to £29,000
Standard Entry	£21,000 to £40,000	£11,000 to £12,000

[1] Salary costs based on the 2010-11 capitation rate for a recruit.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 based on costs for financial year 2010-11.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were discharged on the basis of services no longer required in the last five years. [70677]

Mr Robathan: The number of Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Air Force personnel who were discharged in the last five years on the basis that their service was no longer required is provided in the following tables. Data for Army personnel are not held in the format requested.

	Number
Naval Service	
2006-07	50
2007-08	20
2008-09	0
2009-10	0
2010-11	0
RAF	
2006-07	50

	Number
2007-08	20
2008-09	10
2009-10	20
2010-11	60

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Armed Forces: Training

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits at the Army Foundation College Harrogate *(a)* started and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship or equivalent vocational training leading to recognised professional qualifications in (i) mechanics, (ii) plumbing, (iii) catering, (iv) electronics, (v) carpentry and (vi) construction in each of the last five years. [70676]

Mr Robathan: The Army Foundation College Harrogate (AFC(H)) is a non-academic college and students undertake a vocational apprenticeship, designed to enable young recruits to prepare for military training and life. This includes the opportunity to work on key skills such as communication, application of numbers, working with others and problem-solving. Students have the opportunity to attain qualifications in numeracy, literacy and information technology.

Consequently no recruits at the AFC(H) have completed an apprenticeship or equivalent vocational training leading to recognised professional qualifications in mechanics, plumbing, catering, electronics, carpentry and construction. Nor is training in any of these specified categories delivered in the AFC(H) syllabus. However, during the course, recruits receive a range of educational development including: qualifications in numeracy and English; Level 2 Diploma for IT Users. They also have the opportunity to complete the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) and advanced ECDL; a critical thinking package, bolstered by three weeks of personnel and team development training, the aim of which is develop the recruits' ability to analyse and solve problems.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the Warrior IFV turret upgrade; and if he will make a statement. [70172]

Peter Luff: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced plans to upgrade the Army's Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle in his statement to the House on Defence Transformation on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45. The Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme plans to deliver enhancements in lethality, survivability, growth potential, and safe operation. The turret upgrade, incorporating a 40 mm cannon, is one of these elements. The programme has reached its main investment decision point and a further announcement is expected later in the autumn.

Ben Parkinson

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the personal injury compensation paid to Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson in respect of the injuries sustained while on active service. [71520]

Mr Robathan: We do not comment on the payment made to individual service personnel. However, the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was reviewed by Admiral the Lord Boyce in 2010. He re-examined the increases made to the tariff levels in 2008 and concluded that the top level lump sum of £570,000 remained appropriate.

Having a maximum lump sum payable recognises that when considering individuals who are very profoundly injured, there comes a point where distinguishing between level of injury becomes impossible and the only equitable way to assess the amount payable is to treat individuals in this category in the same way.

The guaranteed income payment element of an AFCS award, which is paid upon discharge to those who sustain serious illness or injury, can be the most financially beneficial part of the compensation package. This tax free, index linked, monthly income stream is paid from the point of service discharge for life, to recognise the effect of the injury on the future employment prospects of an individual and can be worth many hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Departmental Assets

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of his Department's assets that cannot be located. [68526]

Peter Luff: The Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG)'s report on the Ministry of Defence's 2010-11 Annual Report and Accounts, which has been accepted by the MOD, identified that the Department was unable to provide sufficient information to support the accounting for certain inventory and capital spares, including Bowman radios, totalling £5.3 billion.

The difficulties in reconciling inventory system records with the accounting systems do not mean that we have lost any of these items. Nevertheless, given that equipment frequently moves between military units on operations or between units and the repair loop, the MOD is committed to doing more to improve the underlying tracking processes and systems.

On the issue of Bowman radios, the Bowman Asset Management Improvement Plan, which is addressing specific concerns raised by the National Audit Office over the recording of additions and disposal and delivery of replacements for legacy inventory systems, will continue to deliver improvements in the quality of the accounting information.

On asset and stock management, the Chief of Defence Materiel, as logistics process owner, has established the Materiel and Financial Accounting Programme Board to review processes for all areas of asset management and accounting. The Board is overseeing a number of key areas of work including:

> The replacement of legacy inventory systems to improve the logistics capability in support of the front line and to address the issues raised by NAO.
>
> A four year plan; to be completed in 2013, to improve stocktaking and ensure balances are correctly recorded on the systems.
>
> Improvements in skills and competencies training, which is being introduced from 2011.
>
> An action plan to dispose of obsolete stock which commenced in 2010-11.

C&AG has acknowledged that some progress has already been made in the way that the MOD controls inventory and capital spares and welcomed the way in which the MOD has responded to previous recommendations. However, C&AG also recognises that the MOD is only two years into a longer term programme to resolve the underlying issues and that benefits arising from approved new systems will only start to have an impact in 2014.

A copy of the Ministry of Defence's 2010-11 Annual Report and Accounts is available in the Library of the House or via the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports1011/

Departmental Manpower

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the staff level was of *(a)* Royal Navy personnel, *(b)* Ministry of Defence (MOD) police, *(c)* MOD civil servants and *(d)* non-MOD personnel employed at MOD Caledonia as at 18 July 2011. [71614]

Mr Robathan: The number of staff that were employed at Ministry of Defence Caledonia as at 18 July 2011 is shown in the following table:

	Number
Royal Navy	90
MOD police	35
MOD civil servants	68
Non-MOD personnel	108

Taxis

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on taxis for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers since May 2010. [59560]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 14 June 2011]:* Information held on Ministry of Defence (MOD) expenditure on taxis is as follows.

The Defence Ministers spent £163 on taxi fares between May 2010 and the end of June 2011. Defence Ministers make very few journeys by taxi as they use the MOD car pool for most road travel.

Taxi fares reimbursed to officials are not recorded separately from bus and underground fares and parking and road tolls.

The MOD's three special advisers spent £994 on taxi fares between May 2010 and the end of June 2011.

MOD staff may only use a taxi for official duty when there is a business benefit to the MOD or when it saves money. A taxi is typically used where no other suitable form of public transport is available or where heavy baggage or equipment has to be carried.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71130]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) received 1,141 questions for written answer on a named day between 27 May 2010 and July 2011, of which 510 (45%) did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer. For the period 9 March 2011 to 19 July 2011, the MOD received 361 questions for written answer on a named day, of which 188 (52%) did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer.

The Government are committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Gurkhas

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Order of Battle is of the Brigade of Gurkhas. [71102]

Nick Harvey: The Order of Battle for the Brigade of Gurkhas is as follows:

Unit	*Location*
HQ Brigade of Gurkhas	Upavon
1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles	Shorncliffe
2nd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles	Brunei
Queen's Gurkha Signals:	
246 Gurkha Signal Squadron	York
248 Gurkha Signal Squadron	Stafford
250 Gurkha Signal Squadron	Bramcote
Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas	Shorncliffe
Queens Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment:	
28 Squadron	Aldershot
94 Squadron	Hullavington
1 Squadron	Aldershot
Queen's Gurkha Engineers:	
69 Squadron	Maidstone
70 Squadron	Maidstone
Gurkha Companies:	
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst	Sandhurst
Infantry Battle School	Brecon
Infantry Training Centre	Catterick
Infantry Training Centre Language Wing	Catterick
Staff and Personnel Support	Glasgow
Gurkha Reinforcement Company	Munster, Germany

HMS Endurance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work was carried out on HMS Endurance before it was taken over by the Navy; and whether any work was subsequently undertaken by his Department that had not been anticipated. [70330]

Peter Luff: After HMS Polar Circle was leased by the Ministry of Defence in November 1991 and prior to the ship's first deployment, modifications were made to the ship's aviation, communications and hydrographic systems utilising equipment from the previous HMS Endurance where feasible. This included putting non-slip surfaces on the ship's hangar deck, improved flight aids, improved aviation fuelling systems, encrypted satellite communication and a new echo sounder.

In January 1992, the decision was made to purchase HMS Polar Circle and the ship was renamed as HMS Endurance in October 1992. At this stage, a further series of planned modifications were made to the vessel, including enlarging its hangar and the fitting of additional communication and hydrographic equipment. Until its flooding in 2008, all other maintenance or refit work conducted on HMS Endurance had been anticipated and was conducted as part of the ship's routine programme.

Libya: Armed Conflict

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any UK ground forces have been deployed in Libya; and what plans he has for such future deployment. [70650]

Dr Fox: The UK has a small military mentoring team in Libya supporting the National Transitional Council.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will order a lessons learned paper on NATO operations in Libya. [71097]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence routinely conducts lessons learned exercises after the conclusion of a military operation.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Search and Rescue missions the E-3D Sentry aircraft has flown in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the duration was of each such mission. [70843]

Nick Harvey: The E-3D has flown one search and rescue mission during the period 1 January 2011 to 6 September 2011. The total flight time was three hours 37 minutes.

Military Bases

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the measures which will be required to adapt roads around Kirknewton to allow heavy weaponry, including transporters carrying tanks, to reach the proposed new army base; and what estimate his Department has made of the likely cost of such work; [70187]

(2) what plans his Department has to provide access to a training ground for tanks based at the proposed new army base at Kirknewton; and what assessment he has made of the likely costs to be incurred in such provision; [70188]

(3) what new facilities will be required to accommodate personnel who are moved to Glencorse Barracks upon the closure of Redford and Dreghorn barracks; and what assessment he has made of the likely costs of such facilities; [70190]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of modernising the barracks at *(a)* Redford, *(b)* Dreghorn and *(c)* Craigiehall. [70275]

Nick Harvey: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of the Army moves.

This detailed planning work will involve the appropriate and necessary engagement with partners such as the Scottish Government, West Lothian Council and other Government Departments and agencies, including the appropriate level of consultation which will be required as we work through all options. It is therefore too early to confirm further details on the exact requirements and their costs.

Navy

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel are required to meet merchant navy and Royal Navy fire fighting standards; and whether he has considered the merits of rationalising such requirements. [70334]

Nick Harvey: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) set statutory requirements for firefighting standards for those employed in the merchant navy. In addition to the mandatory training provided at the merchant navy training establishment the operational role of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) is such that enhanced training is provided by the Royal Navy firefighting training facility, in order to deal with the situations they may encounter whilst deploying with our armed forces.

As part of the process of improving the training of its personnel, the RFA has begun the process of seeking MCA accreditation for the advanced naval firefighting course so that RFA personnel would be able to conduct their firefighting training at the Royal Navy facilities.

Royal Armoured Corps

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the future Force Structure of the Royal Armoured Corps is to be. [71099]

Nick Harvey: Following on from the Defence Secretary's announcement to the House on 18 July 2011, Official Report, columns 643-645W, the chief of the general staff has directed that a study be undertaken, known as Army 2020, to look at the future design of the Army.

The future force structure of the Royal Armoured Corps, both regular and reserve, will be considered as part of this.

It is anticipated that the study will conclude in summer 2012 and, until then, it is too early to say what the future force structure of the Royal Armoured Corps will be.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had on steps to increase the profile of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. [70338]

Nick Harvey: I and my colleagues fully recognise that the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) continues to be widely acknowledged as being among the leading naval logistic support organisations in the world, integral to the Royal Navy's deployments and global presence and an important element of the wider naval service. The RFA continues to operate in the Gulf, in both the North and South Atlantic, as well as in UK waters in vital support of the UK national interests. In addition they continue to play a role in support of disaster relief operations, such as in February 2010 when RFA LARGS BAY was deployed to Haiti, delivering vital relief supplies and providing specialist capabilities to assist with the wider United Nations-led relief effort.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 52W, on unmanned air vehicles, what the strict procedures are which are intended to *(a)* minimise the risk of casualties occurring from the use of armed drones and *(b)* investigate incidents that do happen. [70238]

Nick Harvey: Reaper is the UK's only armed remotely piloted air system. It is not an autonomous system and does not have the capability to employ weapons unless it is commanded to do so by the flight crew.

The flight crew, along with all other UK personnel, are trained in and operate under the Law of Armed Conflict and strict Rules of Engagement which are designed to minimise the risk to civilians. I am withholding further information about our Rules of Engagement as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

In addition, we carefully select the type of weapon in every engagement to ensure the most appropriate munition is used to deliver the required effect, in a proportional manner, so minimising the risk to civilians and their property.

Where suspected civilian casualty incidents involving UK forces occur, they will be promptly reported to the chain of command who will conduct an initial investigation. If the circumstances of the incident merit it, a separate investigation will be conducted by ISAF. If necessary, the UK chain of command will report the incident to the service police for further national investigation. Service police can also independently launch an investigation in certain circumstances.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Manufacturing Industries

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the merits of introducing incentives for manufacturers to adopt environmentally-friendly practices which are rationed against the carbon footprint of a factory as well as the carbon footprint of the product. [71610]

Gregory Barker: There is currently a wide range of incentives and regulations in place to encourage UK manufacturers to be more energy and carbon efficient. These include the EU Emissions Trading System, which is a market-based approach based on the emissions associated with historical production, Climate Change Agreements, which offer reduced levels of tax in return for meeting energy efficiency targets related to product output, and the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, which uses a range of measures to drive behaviour change including robust reporting, a competitive league table and attaching a price to the carbon that businesses emit. In addition the Green Deal will enable businesses to carry out energy efficiency improvements to their buildings at no upfront cost, through a framework established by Government. This innovative financing mechanism will allow businesses to repay costs through a charge in instalments on their energy bill.

I am always open to consider innovative policy ideas, but new measures would need to fit with our existing policy framework and demonstrate added benefit to both manufacturing and our climate and energy objectives.

Carbon Trust

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessor paid to the Carbon Trust in each of the last five years; and for what purpose. [71407]

Gregory Barker: The Carbon Trust has received the following DECC and DEFRA funding in the last five years:

	£
2006-07	78,600,000
2007-08	90,700,000
2008-09	89,063,000
2009-10	216,465,000
2010-11	127,880,000

Funding has been granted to support carbon abatement in the business and public sectors and to support elements of the trust's work to develop low carbon technologies. In 2009-10 and 2010-11 the higher level of funding reflects the introduction of interest free energy efficiency loans for SMEs and the public sector plus Marine Renewables Proving, Offshore Wind Accelerator and Venture Capital investment.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments his Department plans to make to the Carbon Trust in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [71408]

Gregory Barker: The Carbon Trust is expecting to receive a grant of up to £39.1 million from DECC by the end of the financial year 2011-12.

The DECC Delivery Review, published in May 2011, announced that the Carbon Trust is to receive no further core grant funding beyond the end of this financial year. Ongoing DECC programme planning work will determine whether the Carbon Trust is funded to deliver specific projects in 2012-13.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the title is of each item of research commissioned from the Carbon Trust by his Department. [71409]

Gregory Barker: In 2011-12, DECC has grant-funded the Carbon Trust (CT) to deliver outcomes through an agreed business plan. We do not commission specific pieces of research from CT. CT may however choose, themselves, to conduct small pieces of research to inform their activities.

Energy: Prices

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on domestic fuel bills of National Grid's request for an increase in allowed revenue. [70149]

Charles Hendry: DECC's assessment of the overall impact of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills was published alongside the Annual Energy Statement in July 2010:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/price_bill_imp/price_bill_imp.aspx

Although the analysis included assumptions on increased network costs into the future and increased costs for the necessary grid reinforcement associated with meeting our renewables target, it did not explicitly refer to any request for an increase in allowed revenue from the National Grid.

An updated assessment of the impact of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills will be published alongside the Annual Energy Statement in the autumn reflecting policy developments over the last year. Assumptions on network costs will include agreed increases in allowed revenue set out in the latest distribution price control settlements.

There are currently two price control arrangements going on at the moment:

An extension to the current arrangements (the 'roll-over') which lasts until 2013; and

The RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) controls, which for gas and electricity transmission and gas distribution run from 2013 to 2021.

The Ofgem website sets out the proposals for allowed revenue in the 'roll-over' year and estimates the initial proposals would increase the average residential gas and electricity bills by approximately £2 (0.3%) and £1 (0.4%) respectively:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=63&refer=Networks/Trans/PriceControls/TPCR4Roll-over

The RIIO controls are currently being worked on, with Ofgem's final proposals to be set around the end of 2012. National Grid has recently submitted its transmission business plan proposals, which are being assessed. National Grid's estimates of the consumer impact of these proposals are included on its website.

Green Deal Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with energy companies on the development of billing systems to administer Green Deal payments and savings. [71587]

Charles Hendry: DECC officials meet regularly with energy companies and their trade associations to discuss all aspects of the Green Deal including the collection of the Green Deal charge. These discussions have included non-domestic and smaller energy suppliers. Discussions have explored the impacts associated with all options for collecting the Green Deal charge via energy bills, including costs and technical issues arising from ensuring an efficient and secure system for collecting payments from Green Deal customers and remitting these to Green Deal providers.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with energy companies on providing information to consumers on the levels of savings available from Green Deal packages for gas and electricity. [71588]

Gregory Barker: DECC officials meet regularly with energy companies and their trade associations to discuss all aspects of the Green Deal. These discussions have included non-domestic and smaller energy suppliers. The larger energy suppliers have voluntarily agreed to provide factual and neutral information on the Green Deal to their customers at key trigger points, for example when they change supplier or move into a new property. This will increase the likelihood that consumers will explore the option of installing energy efficiency measures via the Green Deal when they are making other improvements to their homes and businesses. Energy suppliers will be required to reproduce the estimated energy savings, as printed on the customer's Green Deal assessment, on the annual energy statement.

Nuclear Power Stations

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the abolition of levy exemption certificates on the economic viability of combined heat and power plants. [71157]

Gregory Barker: Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget announcement, the Government continue to work with the Combined Heat and Power Association and its members, including representatives from the oil refining industry, in order to develop a simpler, direct and more effective means of support for combined heat and power stations. From 2013, the new relief from the carbon price floor will supersede the existing relief provided through levy exemption certificates, with the intention that CHP plants will continue to receive an appropriate level of support.

Nuclear Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cheltenham of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 203, on nuclear safety, if he will place in the Library and publish on his departmental website *(a)* the (i) progress and (ii) final reports of the nuclear plant operators on the conduct of stress tests and *(b)* the (i) progress and (ii) final findings reports of the national regulator to which reference is made in the answer. [71400]

Charles Hendry: The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) will make available on its website the progress and final reports of the UK nuclear operators under the EU nuclear stress testing initiative. ONR's assessments of those reports for the European Commission will also be published. Copies of all these documents will also be placed in the Library of the House. Where necessary, information will be withheld in line with the exemptions as set out under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Her Majesty's Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, will take account of the UK stress tests in his final report to the Secretary of State on the implications for the UK nuclear industry from the Fukushima nuclear incident. His report will be published and a copy placed in the Library of the House.

Renewables Obligation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he expects to announce the new banding proposals for the renewables obligation from 2013; [71450]

(2) what the timetable is for the renewables obligation banding review. [71451]

Charles Hendry: We intend to launch a public consultation shortly on proposals for banded support under the renewables obligation for the period 2013-17. The Government will issue a formal response and lay draft legislation before Parliament as soon as possible after the consultation ends. Subject to parliamentary and state aids approval, the new bands will come into effect on 1 April 2013 as planned (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

Wind Power: Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what subsidy was received by onshore wind farms for each gigawatt of electricity produced in the last year for which figures are available. [70055]

Charles Hendry: Onshore wind farms receive a subsidy of one renewable energy certificate (ROC) per MWh of electricity generated.

According to the figures published in Ofgem's most recent RO annual report:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/RenewablObl/Documents1/RO%20Annual%20Report%202009-10.pdf

the subsidy awarded to onshore wind power under the RO in 2009-10 was approximately £380 million. This figure uses the nominal value (equal to the buyout price + recycle value) of a renewable obligation certificate (ROC) for 2009-10. The nominal value represents the maximum worth of a ROC to a generator but is not necessarily the amount paid by a supplier, which is dependent on bilateral negotiations between supplier and generator

Ofgem will publish their next annual report, including the number of ROCs received by generation in 2010-11, by 1 April 2012.

Windpower

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the total generating capacity from *(a)* onshore and *(b)* offshore wind in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2014 and (iv) 2015. [71041]

Charles Hendry: The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap published in July 2011 set out central ranges for deployment of renewable technologies to 2020. The following table shows the central ranges for onshore and offshore wind between 2012 and 2015:

Total generating capacity

GW

	Onshore wind	*Offshore wind*
2012	5.6-6.2	2.4-3.3
2013	6.4-7.3	3.4-4.4
2014	6.9-8.3	4.0-5.2
2015	7.6-9.3	4.1-5.9

The actual amount of future wind capacity will depend on many factors including investment and planning decisions.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 September 2011

WALES

National Eisteddfod of Wales

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she attended the 2011 National Eisteddfod of Wales. [71354]

Mr David Jones: In 2010, the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), attended the National Eisteddfod while I attended the International Eisteddfod. In 2011, the Secretary of State attended the International Eisteddfod as day president and I attended the National Eisteddfod.

SCOTLAND

Common Agricultural Policy

13. **Neil Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effects on Scotland of potential reform of the common agricultural policy. [70973]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on CAP reform. The European Commission will publish its regulatory proposals on CAP reform shortly. I will continue to work closely with DEFRA, the Scottish Government and agricultural community to ensure that the UK negotiating position takes account of Scottish interests.

Housing Benefit

14. **Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects in Scotland of changes to housing benefit. [70974]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are in regular contact with Ministers from the Department for Work and Pensions on a range of matters, including reform of housing benefit. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), is due to meet Scottish Ministers tomorrow to discuss welfare reform.

West Lothian Question

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on establishing a commission on the West Lothian Question. [70969]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg), on a range of issues. The Government, last week, set out the steps we are taking to establish a Commission on the West Lothian Question.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Protection

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take in relation to the sale of products that contain ingredients that may cause harm to the aquatic environment. [71673]

Mr Paice: A range of products may contain ingredients with a greater or lesser potential to cause harm to the aquatic environment. Regulatory regimes cover many of these products whereby a range of actions can be taken following an assessment of risk. In other cases, we can consider appropriate action where we have scientific evidence that a substance can cause an unacceptable risk.

Flood Control: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent of flood protection measures in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the City of York Council area in each year since 2000-01. [71488]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows spend on flood and coastal erosion risk management between 2000-01 and 2010-11.

The table excludes spending by local authorities except prior to 2004-05 where flood risk management was primarily funded through local authority grants with DEFRA part-funding only capital improvement projects and some national initiatives. After 2003-04 this form of funding was largely replaced by direct funding from DEFRA through grant in aid.

	Total expenditure in England (£ million)
2000-01	334.1
2001-02	366.1
2002-03	427.8
2003-04	457.5
2004-05	415.4
2005-06	514.8
2006-07	506.0
2007-08	507.5
2008-09	568.1
2009-10	627.9
2010-11	664.1

The following table shows the total expenditure of the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee and expenditure specifically on the City of York.

Expenditure per financial year

£000

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee[1]	28,578	30,715	41,548	37,330	33,421	40,684	34,015	35,174	41,791	57,704	48,645	34,260
City of York—capital	0	0	56	130	0	120	110	24	56	53	132	[3]660
City of York—revenue	[2]582	[2]675	[2]768	780	750	830	650	663	676	641	342	[3]410

[1] Total spend for Yorkshire and North bank of Humber (including York).
[2] Estimates proportioned from Ouse revenue spend.
[3] Estimated to financial year end.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on the extension of the scope of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority into other areas of activity; [71639]

(2) what her policy is on the enforcement powers of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. [71640]

Mr Paice: The Government have no plans to extend the remit of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) to additional sectors. The GLA regulatory framework is subject to the Government's Red Tape Challenge, and its operations fall within the current review of compliance and enforcement regimes for employment law.

The GLA enforces the Gangmasters Licensing Act 2004 on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman). The Act, and subordinate legislation introduced under it, allows the GLA to take a measured and effective approach to enforcing the rights of vulnerable workers in the sectors that it covers.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by the Environment Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71396]

Richard Benyon: Details of Government Procurement Card (GPC) transactions by the Environment Agency for 2008-09 and 2009-10 have been placed in the Library of the House. This includes date of transaction, amount, merchant details and category description. Level three data are not held for 2008-09.

Organic Farming

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the amount of land in *(a)* England and *(b)* North Yorkshire and York organically farmed in each year since 1997. [71489]

Mr Paice: The land area under organic farming in England and North Yorkshire is shown in the following table.

Data prior to 2002 are not available as 2002 was the first year that DEFRA began producing organic agricultural statistics. It is not possible to provide detailed data for the York area as the current system does not support this level of analysis. However, this is being considered for future data analysis and DEFRA publications. Data for North Yorkshire are not available prior to 2006 and therefore data for the Yorkshire and Humber region have been provided for comparison.

Hectares

	Land in-conversion:			*Fully organic land:*			*Total (organic + in-conversion):*		
	England	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*North Yorkshire*	*England*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*North Yorkshire*	*England*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*North Yorkshire*
2002	67,791	2,257	n/a	184,045	6,968	n/a	251,836	9,225	n/a
2003	36,786	1,676	n/a	220,197	8,079	n/a	256,984	9,754	n/a
2004	28,832	1,279	n/a	229,626	8,560	n/a	258,458	9,838	n/a
2005	53,223	2,341	n/a	238,355	8,978	n/a	291,578	11,319	n/a
2006	66,525	3,387	1,816	229,861	9,032	5,811	296,386	12,419	7,627
2007	89,037	4,112	2,321	258,744	9,625	5,965	347,781	13,737	8,286
2008	91,074	3,841	3,341	283,993	10,899	6,965	375,067	14,740	10,306
2009	67,588	2,668	2,454	311,176	11,902	8,113	378,764	14,570	10,567
2010	29,769	850	671	361,992	13,768	10,167	391,761	14,618	10,839

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what communications she has received from the European Commission on the extent of preparedness by member states to introduce enriched cages for egg-laying hens in respect of the provisions of the Welfare of Laying Hens Directive by January 2012. [70413]

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions her Department has had with the EU Commission on its position on EU member states that do not comply with the requirement to use enriched battery cages after 2012; [70216]

(2) what steps her Department plans to take to protect British egg producers from competition by producers in other EU member states who do not fully comply with the provisions of EU Directive 1999/74/EC. [70217]

Mr Paice: Earlier this year the EU Commission requested that all member states provide an update of progress on conversion from conventional cages as of 1 April and a forecast of the position on 31 December 2011. We have received the data provided to the Commission which indicates the level of conversion anticipated by the majority of member states. Of the 20 member states which provided data 13 have said they would be ready. Seven failed to supply any data.

The Government are totally committed to the 2012 deadline to have phased out the use of conventional cages in the UK and acknowledge the sterling job the industry has done in preparing for the ban. We have been at the forefront of efforts to convince the Commission that simply relying on infraction proceedings against member states will not be enough to deal with the negative impact that the large-scale non-compliance would cause. We are keeping the pressure on the Commission to put in place additional enforcement measures to prevent market disturbance.

We are currently developing an UK enforcement strategy which I will be discussing with industry and retailers later this month.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by English Heritage using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71392]

John Penrose: This Department does not hold Government Procurement Card information for its arm's length bodies. English Heritage has advised us that it do not hold this information in the format requested centrally, and to collate it would be above the disproportionate cost limit.

Olympic Games 2012

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the revenue generated by the London 2012 Olympic Games will *(a)* remain in London and *(b)* be distributed to other parts of the UK. [71571]

Hugh Robertson: There are currently no plans to distribute any surplus revenues from the Games on a geographical basis. If the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) generates a surplus at the end of the Games, following the payments of contractual commitments of up to $8 million and $4 million due to the British Olympic Association (BOA) and British Paralympic Association (BPA) respectively, any remaining surplus will be used to repay any funding drawn down by LOCOG from the public sector funding package to fund cost pressures (rather than that made available to fund government obligations such as security or additional scope such as park operations) before it calculates a final surplus for distribution.

Should a surplus remain following these payments then LOCOG will need to consider how any surplus is distributed according to the terms set out in the host city contract. The Host City Contract stipulates that:

> Any surplus resulting from the celebration of the Games shall be divided as follows:
>
> (a) 20% to the National Olympic Committee (NOC);
>
> (b) 60% to be used for the general benefit of sport in the Host Country as may be determined by the OCOG in consultation with the NOC; and
>
> (c) 20% to the International Olympic Committee.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from the business and finance sectors on the contribution of further large-scale investments in energy infrastructure to meet the carbon reduction targets contained in the fourth carbon budget. [71927]

Gregory Barker: The Climate Change Act 2008 does not legally require the Government to formally consult businesses and finance sectors on how to meet carbon reduction targets. We have undertaken extensive consultation with stakeholders to develop our proposals for the Electricity Market Reform, which will enable the investment in low carbon electricity infrastructure needed to deliver our carbon reduction targets. Our proposals are set out in 'Planning our Electric Future: a White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity':

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/emr_wp_2011.aspx

published in July 2011.

Electricity Generation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultation he plans to hold on the organisations that will administer *(a)* feed-in tariff contracts for difference and *(b)* capacity mechanisms contracts; and whether such proposals will be published before 31 December 2011. [69876]

Gregory Barker: The White Paper published on 12 July 2011 sets out the framework that will be used to determine the appropriate institutional framework. A decision on which organisation(s) will be responsible for delivering the Feed-in Tariff Contracts for Difference and the Capacity Mechanism will be published around the turn of the year, once the Capacity Mechanism design has been decided. We have actively engaged with stakeholders on the implementation of the Electricity Market Reform since the publication of the consultation on 16 December 2010. We are continuing this stakeholder engagement in order to develop the appropriate institutional model.

Energy

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what information he holds on domestic energy consumption in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; [69661]

(2) what information he holds on business energy consumption in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; [69662]

(3) what information he holds on the proportion of energy consumption in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* business premises in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008, (iv) 2009 and (v) 2010. [69663]

Gregory Barker: The Department publishes a range of information on domestic and business related energy consumption in its "Energy Trends", "Digest of UK Energy Statistics" and "Energy Consumption in the UK" National Statistics publications. All these publications are available electronically on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/publications.aspx

Hard copies of the first two publication are available in the House Library. The publications contain the following sectoral information about energy consumption. Business energy use is shown separately for industry and public administration, commercial and agricultural uses.

Final energy consumption by end user 2006-10

Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent

	Domestic	*Industry*	*Public administration, commercial and agricultural use*	*Transport*	*All final users*[1]
2006	46,574	31,423	19,514	59,532	157,043
2007	44,931	30,603	19,004	59,764	154,302
2008	45,485	30,852	19,228	58,474	154,038
2009	43,043	26,550	17,701	56,148	143,442
2010	48,471	27,539	18,357	55,704	150,071

[1] Excluding non-energy use of fuels.

Proportion of energy consumption by end user 2006-10

Percentage

	Domestic	*Industry*	*Public administration, commercial and agricultural use*	*Transport*	*All final users*[1]
2006	29.7	20.0	12.4	37.9	100.0
2007	29.1	19.8	12.3	38.7	100.0
2008	29.5	20.0	12.5	38.0	100.0
2009	30.0	18.5	12.3	39.1	100.0
2010	32.3	18.4	12.2	37.1	100.0

[1] Excluding non-energy use of fuels.

The "Energy Consumption in the UK" suite of tables and factsheets contain additional information back to 1970, identifying many of the factors behind the changes in energy use.

Energy Supply: Government Departments

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cumulative savings to the public purse of reducing the energy consumption of Government Departments by 25 per cent. up to 2015. [69695]

Gregory Barker: These are difficult to estimate given fluctuations in energy prices, and because there is not a straightforward relationship between reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy bill savings.

Over the 12 months to 13 May 2011, the Government reduced carbon emissions from its office estate by over 100,000 tonnes on the previous year, reducing energy bills by £13 million in the reporting period, with further energy bill savings expected in subsequent years from the measures taken.

Analysis has shown that the 25% target can be met in a cost effective manner whereby the energy bill savings are higher than the investment needed to meet the target.

Energy: Business

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to publish measures to reduce the effects of Government policy on electricity costs for energy-intensive manufacturers whose international competitiveness is most affected by UK energy and climate change policy. [69879]

Gregory Barker: As announced as part of the Fourth Carbon Budget statement, before the end of the year we will announce a package of measures for energy intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies in order to reduce the impact of government policy on the cost of electricity for these businesses.

Energy: Public Sector

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1268W, on public sector: energy, whether public sector energy efficiency retrofit programmes will be eligible to receive support from the Capacity Mechanism. [65891]

Gregory Barker: The Government are consulting on the type of Capacity Mechanism to be introduced in the GB electricity market to ensure security of supply. That consultation includes seeking views on how to ensure that non-generation technologies and approaches to providing capacity can participate in a Capacity Mechanism on a fair and equal basis with electricity generation.

In addition, the Government have a range of policies in place to incentivise improved energy efficiency and will undertake an assessment over the coming year to determine whether DECC should take further steps to improve the support and incentives for the efficient use of electricity.

European Union Emission Trading Scheme

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely level of revenue from UK companies covered by the European Union Emission Trading Scheme up to 2010. [71363]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 12 September 2011]*: I have been asked to reply.

All Government revenue from the EU Emissions Trading System is from the auctioning of emissions allowances. From the start of UK auctions in November 2008 to the end of 2010 the Government have raised around £770 million.

Feed-in Tariffs: Renewable Energy

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in *(a)* total, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency who have participated in the (i) feed-in tariff and (ii) renewable heat incentive since his appointment. [71179]

Gregory Barker: Quarterly statistics for the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme show that, at the end of June 2011, a total of 44,934 small-scale, low carbon electricity generating installations were registered for FITs. Of these 43,703 were domestic installations. In Reading, there were 85 FIT installations of which 83 were domestic installations; and in Reading West there were 44 FIT installations of which 43 were domestic installations.

There have been no participants in the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme as it is not yet open for applications. Subject to state aid approval, the Government intends that the RHI will open for applications from the non-domestic sector on 30 September 2011.

Nuclear Power Stations: Feed-in Tariffs

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on extending the feed-in tariff to combined heat and power plants. [71156]

Gregory Barker: The feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme currently supports the first 30,000 domestic scale microCHP installations with an electrical generation capacity of up to 2 kW. The Ofgem live database shows 223 microCHP installations currently accredited for FITs.

The comprehensive review of the scheme is now under way and provides an opportunity to consider all aspects of the scheme including tariffs, technology and eligibility of the scheme. We intend to consult later this year on the comprehensive review and for any changes to be implemented in April 2012 unless the review indicates the need for greater urgency.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated for research and development into tidal action renewable energy systems in the comprehensive spending review period. [71806]

Charles Hendry: The Department has allocated in this comprehensive spending review (CSR) period, up to £20 million (subject to value for money consideration) to help support the demonstration of arrays of wave and tidal devices, building on the Department's previous £22 million Marine Renewable Proving Fund and other Government support.

Earlier stage research is funded by other Government Departments.

Sellafield: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department invested in the MOX reprocessing plant at Sellafield in each financial year since 2000-01. [71805]

Charles Hendry: Since 1 April 2005 the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP) has been owned and managed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Prior to that it was part of British Nuclear Fuels Limited. Investment in the plant is a commercial matter for the owners of the plant. There has been no direct investment in SMP by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The NDA has advised me that the total lifetime cost of SMP up to the end of 2010-11, including the costs of construction , was £1.53 billion.

Solar Power: Birds

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect of bird fouling on the *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* longevity of domestic solar panels. [72022]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not done an assessment of this particular problem. The Energy Savings Trust gives advice about care and maintenance of solar panels at:

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Solar-electricity#Costs.savingsandmaintenance

Manufacturers and installers will also provide advice on this and other potential factors that can reduce performance such as leaves, dust and shading.

Water Power: Research

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to increase the level of private sector research and development in marine energy technologies during the comprehensive spending review period. [69235]

Gregory Barker: The Department is working with the private sector through the UK Marine Energy Programme Board's finance working group to examine what support is necessary to ensure the development and deployment of marine energy technologies.

The spending review allocated over £200 million in this comprehensive spending review to support low carbon technologies. In June, the Department announced up to £20 million, subject to value for money assessments, to support the pre-commercial demonstration of marine array devices. This scheme will leverage private sector funding as part of the project costs.

This funding will be part of a wider package of support for marine innovation which the Department is working on with other members of the Low Carbon Innovation Group (other members include: Business Innovation Skills, the Energy Technologies Institute, the Technology Strategy Board, the Carbon Trust and Research Councils UK). The aim is to ensure that there is strategic alignment of public funding for the sector to maximise the benefits each funding streams generates.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Internet Services

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many times the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority web site *(a)* has been offline and *(b)* has shut down when hon. Members were online in the last six months. [64906]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated 20 July 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many times the Independent Parliamentary Standard's Authority web site (a) has been offline and (b) has shut down when hon. Members are online in the last six months.

The online expenses system used by MPs and their staff is separate from the public IPSA website.

In the last six months, the online expenses system has only been offline for planned maintenance. This took place between 6pm on Friday 25 March and 8am on Monday 28 March, and between 8am and 10am on Tuesday 7 June. On both occasions IPSA gave MPs advance notice of the planned downtime.

IPSA's website:

www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk

has been offline at the following times over the past six months: between 9.30am and 10.40am on Monday 18 April, and between 4.45pm and 6.00pm on Thursday 26 May.

Manpower

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (1) how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time staff were employed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month in the last year; [64904]

(2) how many agency staff have been employed by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month in the last year. [64905]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated 6 September 2011:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many (a) part-time and (b) full-time staff were employed by IPSA in each month in the last year. In my answer, I have also included statistics on how many agency staff were employed during this period.

The table shows the breakdown of the number of staff employed by IPSA in the past 12 months, broken down by date and by type of employee. The figures for full-time staff include those on fixed-term appointments and those seconded from Government departments.

The figures for the Compliance Office are not included (3.5 employees throughout this period).

FTE

	Agency staff	*Full-time staff*	*Part time staff*	*Total staff*
1 September 2010	39	41	0.5	80.5
1 October 2010	29	54	0.5	83.5
1 November 2010	16	57	0.5	73.5
1 December 2010	12	58	0.5	70.5
1 January 2011	11	57	0.5	68.5
1 February 2011	9	58	0.5	67.5
1 March 2011	9	59	0.5	68.5
1 April 2011	2	60.5	0.5	63
1 May 2011	2	60.5	0.5	63
1 June 2011	2	60.5	0.5	63
1 July 2011	1	60.5	0.5	62
1 August 2011	2	57.5	0.5	60

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo developed as part of the UK national action plan on women, peace and security; and if he will make a statement. [71794]

Mr Bellingham: The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been identified as one of three bilateral action country plans within the UK Government's National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security. We have achieved a number of successes against the objectives of the NAP, which include:

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office—funded film, 'The Greatest Silence', distributed widely to raise awareness of sexual violence; FCO developed and funded televised campaign 'Vrai Djo', which seeks to challenge male attitudes towards women; Department for International Development (DFID) technical support and funding to the Ministry of Gender to support the development and implementation of national-level gender policies; DFID support to an influential women's network (CAFCO) to ensure that fifty percent of voters registered were women; continued lobbing of the Government of DRC to implement legislation outlawing sexual violence and a zero tolerance policy on human rights abusers; and funding for a number of projects to raise awareness of sexual violence legislation, including workshops across the country.

However the levels of violence faced by women in DRC remain unacceptably high and our work to implement the resolution remains an important part of HMG's remit in DRC. The NAP is a working document; it will be reviewed again in October. A report will be produced and presented to Parliament by ministerial statement.

Apprentices

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many apprenticeships have been created directly by contracts with his Department in each of the last three years. [66526]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports the use of procurement for this purpose, but, as the majority of our expenditure is overseas, we have limited potential to develop skills and apprenticeships in the UK through contractors and their suppliers.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71143]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is as follows: *(a)* 80 out of 614 questions tabled (13%); *(b)* 42 out of 236 questions tabled (18%).

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

European Convention on Human Rights

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with (i) the President of the European Council, (ii) the President of the European Commission, (iii) the governments of other EU member states and (iv) other interested parties on the accession of the EU to the European Convention on human rights; and if he will make a statement. [70220]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have been asked to reply.

I have discussed the accession of the EU to the European convention on human rights on several occasions with my counterparts on the Justice and Home Affairs Council. A drafting group comprised of Council of Europe experts and officials from the European Commission has now prepared a draft accession agreement, and the 47 states of the Council of Europe are now considering this draft in preparation for further negotiations. In the context of these negotiations, I expect that my colleagues and I will discuss the issues arising with key figures elsewhere in Europe, and that my officials will also continue to discuss the technical aspects of the draft agreement with European counterparts at working level.

Tolls

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instruct ambassadors and high commissioners not to pay road tolls in countries whose diplomatic representatives in the UK refuse to pay the London congestion charge. [71929]

Mr Bellingham: The majority of diplomatic missions in London pay the congestion charge. It is the British Government's view that those that do not are in contravention of their obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR). Even so, we would never encourage our missions abroad to contravene the VCDR.

Tripoli Zoo

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has provided assistance to Tripoli Zoo. [71372]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is not currently providing assistance to Tripoli Zoo because The International Fund for Animal Welfare has now provided funding to buy much-needed food and other supplies. The Zoo includes tigers, lions, hyenas, hippos, deer and monkeys. I am currently making further inquiries about their welfare.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Connexions Service: Innovation Fund

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to allow Connexions services to bid for funding from his Department's Innovation Fund for the purpose of assisting young people into education, employment or training. [71754]

Chris Grayling: Any organisation in the public, private or voluntary sector is eligible to bid for the Innovation Fund, as an investor/intermediary or as a delivery organisation within a social investment partnership. The second phase of the Innovation Fund will be launched in the autumn and details will be available on the Innovation Fund website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/innovation-fund/

The Innovation Fund team can be contacted at:

innovation.fund@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71393]

Chris Grayling: The information relating to the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) use of the Government Procurement Card (GPC) in 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be placed in the Library of the House. It excludes details of level 3 or enhanced transaction entries as HSE does not hold such information.

The HSE carries out regular sample checks on its GPC-related transactions supplemented by periodic reviews by its internal auditors. Together, they provide assurance that relevant HSE-based procedures are followed and that transactions are consistent with the guidance on the use of public funds set out in HM Treasury's Managing Public Money.

One of the key functions of the Health and Safety Laboratory is testing products, for example in connection with incident investigations. As part of this they frequently have to purchase individual items from suppliers.

In line with the Government's requirement for greater fiscal constraint and discipline across the public sector necessary to address the current deficit, the Department and its non-departmental public bodies continue to drive savings wherever possible in order to deliver value for money for the taxpayer.

Hewlett-Packard

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has given approval to the application by Hewlett-Packard to offshore jobs under the ADAMS-2 contract it holds with his Department; and if he will make a statement. [71699]

Chris Grayling: The Department asked Hewlett-Packard to find a way to do the ADAMS-2 application support work in the UK and can confirm that this work will not be offshored.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many small companies outside the construction sector have been prosecuted for breaches of health and safety regulations where no customers have been hurt in each of the last five years. [71616]

Chris Grayling: From 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011, the Health and Safety Executive completed 453 prosecutions of duty-holders employing fewer than 10 employees (including those with no employees) outside the construction sector. Details for each work year are provided in the following table.

Work year (1 April to 31 March)	*Number of duty-holders employing fewer than 10 employees (including those with no employees) outside the construction sector prosecuted*
2006-07	123
2007-08	82
2008-09	84
2009-10	86
2010-11	78

Note:
The 2010-11 figure is based on current information in advance of the release of official statistics for this year in October 2011.

It is not possible to provide information on the number of the above prosecutions where no customers have been hurt as HSE does not hold this information in the format requested.

Industrial Health and Safety: Inspections

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of health and safety inspectors by local authorities. [71618]

Chris Grayling: Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSW Act) puts a duty on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities (LAs) to make adequate arrangements for enforcement. Whilst recognising that the duties placed upon an LA by Section 18 are wholly the responsibility of each independent LA, HSE developed and agreed with LAs a Section 18 Standard on what constitutes 'adequate enforcement arrangements'.

The effectiveness of LA inspector activity and their overall competency are elements covered within the Standard. LAs currently follow a process of self-assessment, action planning and peer review to allow them to determine whether they meet the standard and whether any improvements by means of an action plan are required.

Pensions: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Warrington North constituency were in receipt of (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average monetary value was of the pension credit received in each case. [71748]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table:

State pension and pension credit recipients in the Warrington local authority area and Warrington North parliamentary constituency

	State pension claimants	*Pension credit household recipients*	*Average weekly amount of pension credit*
Warrington local authority	37,120	7,860	52.34

State pension and pension credit recipients in the Warrington local authority area and Warrington North parliamentary constituency

	State pension claimants	*Pension credit household recipients*	*Average weekly amount of pension credit*
Warrington North parliamentary constituency	17,250	4,220	53.24

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The state pension figure provided is the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner.
4. Information is published on our tabulation tool at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Schools: Innovation Fund

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether schools will be entitled to bid for monies from the Innovation Fund to help them meet careers and guidance responsibilities set out in the provisions of the Education Bill. [71815]

Chris Grayling: Any organisation in the public, private or voluntary sector is eligible to bid for the Innovation Fund, as an investor/intermediary or as a delivery organisation within a social investment partnership. However, the Innovation Fund provision must not duplicate existing programmes or funding arrangements—the provision needs to be genuinely innovative and deliver support to individuals which would not otherwise be available to them.

Social Security Benefits: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Warrington North constituency have moved off benefits and into work in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many in each case were (i) aged over 55, (ii) single parents and (iii) aged between 16 and 25. [71749]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Security

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many passes to enter the Palace of Westminster were valid in each category as of 1 July 2011; how many of these were issued to hon. Members' staff acting *(a)* as secretaries, *(b)* as research assistants and *(c)* in other capacities; and what estimate the Commission has made of the number of research assistants in possession of a valid pass at the latest date for which figures are available. [69496]

John Thurso: The following table shows the number of passes and categories on issue on 1 July 2011.

Type of pass	*Number*
Contractor Works	977
Contractor Works Escort	251
Day	12
Ex-Member	359
Full Pass Holder Both Houses	47
Full Pass Holder House of Commons	1658
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Members Library	4
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Officer	312
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Whips	55
Full Pass Holder House of Lords	902
Full Pass Holder House of Lords Officer	100
Full Pass Holder House of Lords Whips	28
Full Pass Holder Staff of both Houses	1452
Full Pass Holder Staff of both Houses Officer	104
Government Department Staff	900
Government Department Staff Escort	177
Gymnasium	82
Hereditary Peer	83
Media	81
Media Escort	30
Media Gallery	79
Media Lobby	236
Member	649
Member Staff	1531
Member Staff (Member Library)	15
MEP (House of Lords only)	16
Peer Staff	588
Peers	813
Residents Guest	19
Restricted Pass Holder	348
Restricted Pass Holder Driver	22
Restricted Pass Holder Escort	41
Restricted Pass Holder Tour Guide	208
Retired Officer	18
Staff of Both Houses	457
Staff of Both Houses Escort	125
Staff of House of Commons	156
Staff of House of Commons Escort	4
Staff of House of Lords	85
Staff of House of Lords Escort	1

The number of passes on issue to Members' staff on 1 July 2011 in the table above breaks down as follows:

Job role	*Amount on issue*
Secretary	304
Research Assistant	1080
Member Staff (Member Library)	15
Intern	134

Job role	*Amount on issue*
Party Official	7
Media Adviser	1
Office Manager	1
Press Officer	2
Political Officer	1
Chauffeur	1
Total	1,546

As at 9 September 2011, there are 1,097 passes on issue to research assistants.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Khat

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the review of the evidence relating to the use of khat to complete. [71048]

James Brokenshire: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) was requested by the Home Department to review the available evidence on khat, updating its assessment of 2005, and provide advice in relation to control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and a wider response.

The ACMD will commence its consideration of khat in autumn 2011, and it is anticipated that the review will be completed by December 2012.

Animal Experiments

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of project licence applications for experiments on animals which were recommended by the Animal Scientific Procedures Inspectorate were refused permission by her Department in the last three years for which figures are available. [71040]

Lynne Featherstone: Home Office records show that no project licence applications recommended for approval by the Animals Scientific Procedure Inspectorate were subsequently refused in the period 2008 to 2010.

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects of transposing EU directive 2010/63/EU into UK law on the annual number of laboratory inspections carried out in the UK. [71088]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The public consultation on the transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes invited views on the system of inspection which would best meet UK needs. The consultation closed on 5 September 2011 and consideration of the responses is under way. Decisions on the options for transposition will take careful account of the responses received, including in relation to the future nature and frequency of inspections of establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Animal Welfare

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the use of concussion/percussive blow to the head to kill neonate dogs, cats, ferrets and foxes as part of her Department's consultation on the transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU. [71166]

Lynne Featherstone: The public consultation on the transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU closed on 5 September 2011 and consideration of the responses is under way. Early indications are that a number of responses include comments on the provisions for humane killing set out in Annex IV to the directive, including by the use of concussion/percussive blow to the head. These will be carefully considered before decisions are taken on how to proceed with regard to this issue.

CCTV

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on evidence gathering and deterring crime of the use of body-worn CCTV cameras by police officers in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [71113]

James Brokenshire: Guidance for the police use of body worn video devices issued in 2007 was informed by a pilot of this technology by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. No further assessment has been undertaken by the Home Office. Police forces are expected to work with this guidance and assess the effectiveness of body worn video at a local level.

Civil Disorder: Greater London

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people involved in criminal acts during the public disorder in London in the period between 6 and 10 August 2011; and how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted in connection with those acts. [71672]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes the chief statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 501-502W, on crime:

databases, how many unsolved crimes on file in relation to each type of offence have a DNA profile attached to them. [71572]

James Brokenshire: No further information is held centrally that adds to the information already provided in the previous answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 501-02W.

EU Nationals: Convictions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many notifications the United Kingdom Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records gave to each EU member state regarding the conviction of one of its nationals in the UK in each year since 2007. [71206]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The figures provided by the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records for notifications separated by country of receipt for 2009, 2010 and up to 2 August 2011 are shown in the table. Statistical information for 2007 and 2008 was not split by nationality. Total figures have been provided 2007 and 2008.

Notifications out—notifications of EU nationals convicted in the UK[1]

Country	*2007*[2]	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*[3]
Austria	—	—	42	60	21
Belgium	—	—	137	130	63
Bulgaria	—	—	609	332	200
Cyprus	—	—	221	185	99
Czech Republic	—	—	894	846	527
Denmark	—	—	77	66	40
Estonia	—	—	202	206	127
Finland	—	—	24	59	18
France	—	—	714	1,089	499
Germany	—	—	727	663	228
Greece	—	—	135	110	55
Hungary	—	—	439	369	253
Ireland	—	—	4,874	4,212	1,388
Italy	—	—	771	757	389
Latvia	—	—	1,910	2,203	1,609
Lithuania	—	—	4,728	4,744	3,451
Luxembourg	—	—	4	4	0
Malta	—	—	41	80	26
Netherlands	—	—	402	537	258
Poland	—	—	9,926	8,137	5,049
Portugal	—	—	2,209	1,933	995
Romania	—	—	3,795	4,497	3,281
Slovakia	—	—	472	435	313
Slovenia	—	—	24	26	13
Spain	—	—	355	294	187
Sweden	—	—	103	106	76
Total	10,736	30,545	33,835	32,080	19,144

[1] The figures previously provided for 2009 and 2010 in response to parliamentary question 67358 on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 246W, were for England and Wales only.

[2] In 2007 the process by which criminal convictions were extracted from the police national computer was changed, so that all convictions of EU nationals were sent to the member state of nationality. Previously only the first conviction had been sent.

[3] As of 2 August 2011.

Note:

The figures for 2008-11 reflect the number of convictions and not the number of offenders.

Forensic Science Service

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many service providers have been contracted by police forces to provide forensic services. [70659]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* Twelve service providers have been contracted to provide forensic services to police forces under the National Forensic Framework Agreement. Some of these providers also worked with forces before the framework was put in place. The great majority of force spending on forensics is with these suppliers. However, forces may in addition enter into contracts with forensic specialists on which information is not collected centrally.

Immigrants: Human Rights

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the impact of human rights legislation on her ability to remove from the UK non-UK citizens whose presence is not conducive to the public good; and if she will make a statement. [70837]

Damian Green: The Government have established a Commission to investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights. The Commission will look at the way rights are protected in the UK and we expect it to explore a wide range of different views as it carries out its work.

In terms of removals, I am also consulting on article 8 of the European convention on human rights, on how we can draw a fair balance between the interests of the individual and of the community as a whole.

Metals

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to further regulate scrap metal yards. [71200]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The Home Office recognises the significance of metal theft to the United Kingdom and that some scrap metal yards are a disposal route for stolen metal. The Home Office is in discussion with other Government Departments to identify whether any legislative changes should be made to tackle the theft of metal.

Prescriptions

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward further statutory instruments in respect of the law governing the prescribing powers of non-medical prescribers. [71410]

James Brokenshire: The Department is currently preparing a statutory instrument to implement legislative changes to enable non-medical prescribers to prescribe all controlled drugs within their competence in line with the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. The statutory instrument has been expanded to incorporate other amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (as amended) to facilitate the mixing of medicines which include controlled drugs in palliative care and in other areas of clinical practice.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010; [66318]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66343]

Robert Neill: As part of the spending review settlement, the DCLG Group is making a collective 33% real terms saving against its running costs by 2014-15. This equates to savings of over £200 million by 2014-15. In addition, the Department will save a further £190 million from the closure of the Government offices for the regions, taking overall savings on administrative running costs to 42% across the DCLG Group by 2014-15.

These savings reflect the coalition Government's agenda of decentralisation, ending the micromanagement of local government, the abolition of regional government, and the broader need to tackle the deficit left by the last Administration.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and its non-departmental bodies have published exit numbers and expenditure in their respective resource accounts for 2010-11.

Exit costs are higher (by historic standards) in 2010-11 due to the closure of the Government office for the regions and measures taken to reduce running costs across the departmental family. The exit costs at the Audit Commission reflect the abolition of comprehensive area assessment, ahead of plans to disband the Commission completely.

The following table details the number and cost of exits across the Department and its arm's length bodies for the period 1 May 2010 to 30 June 2011. This shows all exits where there was a public cost, including voluntary exit and approved early retirement schemes as well as redundancies.

The table also shows the numbers of staff recruited over the same period. Recruitment is defined here as new civil servants on either a permanent or fixed-term contract joining between 1 May 2010 and 30 June 2011. Figures exclude fast stream staff as they are recruited centrally by Cabinet Office. Many of these were to fill business critical vacancies, vacancies requiring technical skills, or recruitment commitments made prior to new controls announced in May 2010.

	Number of early exits			*Cost of early exits (£ million)*			
1 May 2010 to 30 June 2010	*Compulsory redundancies*	*Voluntary exits + voluntary redundancies + early retirement*	*Total*	*Compulsory redundancies*	*Voluntary exits + voluntary redundancies + early retirement*	*Total*	*Recruitment*
Central DCLG	—	234	234	—	6.82	6.82	23
Government offices for the regions	—	603	603	—	30.48	30.48	—
Planning Inspectorate	—	76	76	—	2.90	2.90	—
Architects Registration Board	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	—
Audit Commission	550	*	550	24.02	*	24.02	11
Building Regulation Advisory Committee	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	—
Community Development Foundation	40	—	40	0.34	—	0.34	—
Fire Service College	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	6
Firebuy	6	—	6	0.05	—	0.05	—
Homes and Communities Agency	14	140	154	1.11	6.75	7.86	35
Independent Housing Ombudsman Ltd	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	3
Infrastructure Planning Commission	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	14
Leasehold Advisory Service	*	—	0	*	—	0.0[illegible]	—
London Thames Gateway Development Company	*	—	0	*	—	0.00	1
Ordnance Survey	—	40	40	—	3.10	3.10	8

	Number of early exits			*Cost of early exits (£ million)*			
1 May 2010 to 30 June 2010	*Compulsory redundancies*	*Voluntary exits + voluntary redundancies + early retirement*	*Total*	*Compulsory redundancies*	*Voluntary exits + voluntary redundancies + early retirement*	*Total*	*Recruitment*
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	*
Residential Property Tribunal Service	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	—
Standards Board for England	—	37	37	—	0.60	0.60	*
Tenant Services Authority	6	29	35	0.12	1.29	1.41	6
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	6	*	6	0.01	*	0.01	—
Valuation Tribunal for England	—	—	0	—	—	0.00	—
Valuation Tribunal Service	21	—	21	0.55	—	0.55	19
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	7	—	7	0.04	—	0.04	*
* Entries with less than 5 removed for data protection	3	5	8	0.05	0.11	0.16	7
Grand total	653	1,164	1,817	26.27	52.06	78.33	133

Firebuy and the Community Development Foundation ceased to exist after 31 March 2011 and figures are included to that date.

Redundancy

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [67811]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) today, PQs 66318 and 66343.

Official Overseas Visits

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money his Department spent on international travel in each year since 2008-09. [67791]

Robert Neill: Details of the expenditure on international travel that are available for the last two financial years are presented in the following table:

		£
	2009-2010	*2010-11*
International Air Travel	n/a	10,309
Eurostar	n/a	20,311
International Hotel accommodation	39,330	24.723

n/a = not available

Figures for 2008-09 and on expenditure on international air travel and Eurostar for 2009-10 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As part of the steps taken to minimise departmental spend on travel, guidance has been issued to staff about travelling economy not business class and to be flexible in achieving value for money when travelling by air. New arrangements have been introduced which mean that all flights outside of Europe and above £300 need to be approved by the central finance team to ensure value for money.

These controls on travel have been further supplemented with guidance to employees stating that first class rail travel is not an automatic right based on grade or distance of journey, that approval must be given and that central finance challenges each journey to ensure it was the most cost-effective option. This has seen the instances of first class travel drop from 116 tickets in the month of April 2010 to between five and 10 monthly now.

The Department, as of 1 August 2011, has also reduced its London hotel guideline rate from £125 to £110 per night.

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* staff and *(c)* special advisers in his Department between June 2007 and May 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit. [68358]

Robert Neill: The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministers-overseas-travel

Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Full details of the number and costs of overseas visits, together with breakdowns by Ministers, staff and special advisers, from June 2007 until May 2010, are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today, PQ 67791, which gives details of the cost of international hotel accommodation in 2009-10 as £39,330.

Housing: Standards

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private homes have been entered by local authority inspectors to check compliance with *(a)* building regulations, *(b)* housing standards and *(c)* health and safety regulations in each of the last five years. [71617]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Government: Bellwin Scheme

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have indicated that they intend to apply for financial assistance under the Bellwin Scheme in respect of costs incurred during the disturbances in August 2011; and how much he estimates will be paid out to local authorities under the scheme. [69787]

Robert Neill: To date 10 local authorities have indicated that they intend to apply for financial assistance under the Bellwin Scheme in respect of costs incurred during the disturbances. It is too early to estimate how much will be paid out under this scheme but we have asked local authorities to provide estimates which we hope to have by mid September.

Planning Permission: Solar Power

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance he has issued to local authorities on the installation of ground level solar panels; and if he will make a statement. [71813]

Robert Neill: We published a consultation draft of the new National Planning Policy Framework in July which sets out the policies for renewable energy including ground level solar panels. 'Planning for Renewable Energy: A Companion Guide to Planning Policy Statement 22' on renewable energy provides some guidance on the planning issues which should be considered when determining an application for planning permission for stand alone solar panels. We are currently considering the need for planning guidance.

Public Disorder

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 August 2011, on public disorder: support for businesses, how many applications his Department has received for assistance from the High Street Support Scheme; how many businesses have received payments to date from the scheme; what the average value of payments made to date has been; how many applications for assistance have been rejected; and whether the Government intends to increase its funding for the scheme. [69784]

Robert Neill: To date 35 local authorities have registered an intention to claim assistance under the High Street Support Scheme. As part of the claim process we have asked local authorities for information on the number of businesses that will receive payments from the scheme, the value of such payments and how many applications have been rejected. Actual figures will not be known for some time but we have also asked the local authorities to provide estimated figures which we hope to have by mid September. This information will help us to assess the level of funding being sought for the scheme.

TREASURY

Gift Aid

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reconsider his plans in respect of the Gift Aid treatment of payments which include tuition provision; and if he will make a statement. [71730]

Justine Greening: The Gift Aid rules require payments to be gifts to charities in order to be eligible. Payments made to obtain personal use of charity services are not gifts so do not attract Gift Aid. There are no plans to change the scope of the Gift Aid rules.

Child Benefit: Statistics

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 343W, on child benefits: Peterborough, for what reasons data on child benefit payments to EU nationals is not collected at *(a)* regional and *(b)* constituency level; and if he will make a statement. [71697]

Mr Gauke: Child benefit is a single national scheme which is administered centrally by the Child Benefit Office in HM Revenue and Customs. Consequently, data in respect of child benefit awards payable to nationals of other EU member states is not collected at regional or constituency level.

Children: Day Care

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of income spent by households per decile of income of the population for childcare in *(a)* each of the last five financial years. and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [70476]

Mr Gauke: The requested information is not available.

Debts

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the level of *(a)* secured and *(b)* unsecured personal debt of households in each income decile in each of the next four financial years. [71424]

Justine Greening: Official economic forecasts are produced by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). While the OBR do not produce forecasts by income decile, projections have been made for aggregate household debt alongside the Economic and Fiscal Outlook published in March 2011. The forecasts are available from the OBR website at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/household%20debt%20paper%20formatted.doc1.pdf

Consultants

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many senior civil servants in his Department at each grade had worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG immediately prior to taking up their appointment in each of the last four years; what consultancy agreements his Department had with those firms in each such year; and how many consultants from those firms have advised his Department in each such year. [68947]

Justine Greening: Fewer than five civil servants joined HM Treasury at senior civil servant pay band 1 in the financial year 2007-08 having worked for one of the listed firms immediately prior to taking up their appointment. No civil servants joining HM Treasury at a senior civil servant pay band since then had worked for one of the listed firms immediately prior to taking up their appointment.

The consultancy contracts awarded to PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG in each of the last four years are contained in the following table:

Financial year	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
PricewaterhouseCoopers	1. Investigation into the loss of confidential data by HMRC	1. Support to the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit	1. Support and project management services in the development of the Asset Protection Scheme	—
	—	2. Advice on the conversion of departmental accounts to meet international financial reporting standards	—	—
	—	3. Support and project management services into the development of the Asset Protection Scheme	—	—
	—	4. Advice on data quality for financial information purposes	—	—
Ernst and Young	1. Procurement audit work	1. IT security, procurement and business continuity audit work	1. Support in the development of the Asset Protection Scheme	1. Provision of management information for HM Treasury's financial information requirements Combined on-line Information System (COINS)
	—	2. Advice on the special resolution regime	2. Advice on internal audit arrangements across central Government	—
	—	3. Advice following the resolution of Bradford and Bingley	3. Provision of management information for HM Treasury's financial information requirements Combined on-line Information System (COINS)	—
	—	4. Support in the development of the Asset Protection Scheme	—	—
Deloitte	1. Advice on Human Resource IT system	1. Advice on the benefits of sukuk issuance	1. Consultancy support for Equitable Life Payment Scheme (ELPS)	1. Consultancy support for Equitable Life Payment Scheme
	2. Support and advice on Northern Rock	2. Support in the development of the Asset Protection Scheme	2. Advice on PFI guidance	—
	3. Analysis of generic financial advice	3. Advice to the independent review of British offshore financial centres	—	—

Financial year	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
	—	4. Analytical support to the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit	—	—
KPMG	—	1. Support in the development of the Asset Protection Scheme	1. Support in the development of the Asset Protection Scheme	—
	—	2. Audit services	2. Advice on Dunfermline Building Society	—
	—	—	3. Advice to Money Guidance pathfinder operational review	—

The information requested on how many consultants from PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, Deloitte or KPMG who have advised the Department in each of the last four years is not held centrally by the Department and could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Internships

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 896W, on departmental work experience, (1) what guidelines his Department issues on recruitment, selection, advertisement and operation of unpaid placements; [69473]

(2) how many *(a)* persons undertaking unpaid work experience, *(b)* unpaid interns and *(c)* other persons in unpaid positions were working in his Departments as of 1 July 2011. [69514]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not run unpaid placement schemes centrally.

On 1 July 2011 there were no unpaid interns or persons undertaking unpaid work experience in HM Treasury.

Energy: Prices

Albert Owen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his oral Answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 170-1, on domestic energy prices, what steps the Government are taking to curb excessive price increases for electricity and gas. [71551]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Government are taking a range of actions to increase people's control over their energy bills. These include finance for energy efficiency improvements, help for the most vulnerable consumers with energy efficiency and bills, support for microgeneration and consumer empowerment through smart meter roll-out and better information. Consumers should continue to check that they are on the best tariff for their needs and consider switching suppliers.

Ofgem monitors the market closely to check consumers are paying a fair price for their gas and electricity. Ofgem is currently consulting on additional measures to boost competition and consumer protection in gas and electricity markets.

EU Budget

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to promote a programme of financial waste reduction in EU institutions. [71110]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The Government's top priority is to reduce the size of the EU Budget, through both annual and longer term Financial Perspective negotiations. The UK has consistently pressed member states for a concerted effort to ensure all EU spending delivers the highest value for money, through strict prioritisation to reduce waste.

The UK has first aimed to minimise annual growth in administrative expenditure in EU institutions. The Government, working in the EU Council, reduced the 2012 administrative budget from the 1.3% first proposed, to 0.4%. We are also working to achieve very significant savings in such spending over the next financial perspective, through reductions in three major areas: EU staff remuneration, EU staff numbers and all other administrative spending such as EU procurement and support services.

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many responses he has received to the consultation on machine games duty. [71709]

Justine Greening: The number of responses received during the consultation will be included in the summary of responses, which will be published in the autumn.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to respond to the consultation on machine games duty. [71710]

Justine Greening: A summary of responses to the consultation will be published in the autumn.

Freedom of Information Requests

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of requests made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were not answered within 20 working days between *(a)* 6 April 2007 and 5 April 2008, *(b)* 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2009 and *(c)* 6 April 2009 and 5 April 2010. [71443]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 12 September 2011]*: Statistics on the Treasury's performance under the Freedom of Information Act are available from the House Library and published by the Ministry of Justice. Data covering 2009 and 2010 are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

and for 2007 and 2008 it is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly-archive.htm

The data published comply with the agreed reporting requirements for central Government Departments, meaning that they are organised in calendar years. HMT's performance over the period in question was:

				Percentage
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Answered by the deadline	95	100	99	99
Within 20 working days	80	93	92	95
With permitted extension	15	7	7	4

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the review into the effectiveness of the 50p rate of income tax will consider the effects of the tax rate on the economy including loss of revenue resulting from relocations overseas. [70142]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor has asked HM Revenue and Customs to assess the revenue from the 50% rate of income tax. As I outlined in debates around the 2011 Finance Bill, HMRC will consider all available evidence around the impact of the 50% rate including data from the 2010-11 self-assessment returns which will become available next year.

The Chancellor also made clear in his Budget 2011 speech that the 50% rate is a temporary measure. In an age when businesses, capital and people are increasingly mobile, high tax rates send a negative signal to those looking to work and invest in the UK.

Legal Aid

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has had discussions with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Justice, *(b)* the Secretary of State for the Home Department, *(c)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, *(d)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(e)* the Secretary of State for Health on the implications for their Department's budgets of proposed reform of civil legal aid. [60405]

Danny Alexander: No. This is primarily a matter for the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. As the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury explained on 17 June, the impact of all policies, including the impact on the public purse, is considered carefully as part of both formal impact assessments and the Cabinet Office clearance process.

Members: Correspondence

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of responses to items of correspondence received from the public and hon. Members to his Department since 25 May 2010 to the Treasury have not met his Department's correspondence targets. [70511]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 7 September 2011]*: I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office's written statement on Members' and Peers' correspondence dated 28 March 2011, *Official Report,* column 1WS. Statistics for each Department's timelines in replying to correspondence received from Members in 2011 will be similarly published in 2012.

Such statements do not cover correspondence direct from members of the public, which is generally handled by officials. Since 25 May 2010, 4,358 (29%) of these letters were not replied to within the target 15 working days.

In the face of continuing high volumes of correspondence for a relatively small Department, the Treasury is redesigning its processes to improve performance in this regard.

National Insurance Contributions: Birmingham

Steve McCabe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Birmingham have participated in the national insurance contributions holiday since the scheme came into effect. [69636]

Mr Gauke: As of 22 August 2011, HMRC has received a total of 136 successful applications for the NICs holiday from Birmingham city council constituencies, including:

Edgbaston
Erdington
Hall Green
Hodge Hill
Ladywood
Northfield
Perry Barr
Selly Oak
Sutton Coldfield
Yardley.

Steve McCabe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Birmingham, Selly Oak constituency have participated in the employer national insurance contributions holiday since the scheme came into effect. [69708]

Mr Gauke: As of 15 August, HMRC has received eight successful applications from businesses in Birmingham, Selly Oak constituency.

National Insurance Contributions: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new businesses established in Belfast East constituency have participated in the National Insurance Holiday scheme. [70390]

Mr Gauke: As of 17 August 2011, HMRC has received a total of 15 successful applications for the NICs Holiday from Belfast East constituency.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 400W, on social security benefits: overseas residence, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of collecting and collating the data contained in the Answer; and if he will make a statement. [71698]

Mr Gauke: Information concerning the number of ongoing child benefit awards under EC Regulation 883/2004 and the children covered by such awards is provided by an existing database in HM Revenue and Customs. The current costs of collating and collecting that data are, therefore, minimal.

Taxation: Foreign Companies

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the contribution of controlled foreign companies to the national tax gap in each year since 2005. [70092]

Mr Gauke: The new set of tax gap estimates will be published in Measuring Tax Gaps 2011 on 21 September 2011. The estimates for corporation tax include the contribution made by the CFC regime. The estimates cannot be shared before 21 September because of Official Statistics protocols.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the tax regime applying to controlled foreign companies (CFCs) reduces the tax gap during the comprehensive spending review period; and what estimate has been made of the contribution CFCs will make to reducing the tax gap in each year of that period. [70212]

Mr Gauke: Proposals for the design of a new controlled foreign company (CFC) regime were published on 30 June 2011 and are subject to consultation at present. The new CFC regime will be introduced during the comprehensive spending review period. One aim of the design proposals is to minimise any tax gap arising from the new regime.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pensioners have claimed free bus travel in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the concession's inception. [70450]

Norman Baker: The Department does not have information about use of the free bus travel concession at individual local authority level.

Population estimates from the Office for National Statistics show the numbers of people of eligible age for an England national bus pass, from mid-year 2008 to mid-year 2010:

Thousand

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
(a) Jarrow	n/a	n/a	n/a
(b) South Tyneside	35.8	36.5	36.9
(c) The North East	594.6	604.5	615.0
(d) England	11,324.2	11,541.1	11,746.5

The National Travel Survey 2010 estimates that, in England, 78% of eligible older people hold an England national bus pass.

The number of concessionary passenger journeys on local bus services in England from 2007-08 to 2009-10 can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/bus0105

The right to free bus travel for both older and disabled people is enshrined in primary legislation and, in last year's spending review, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), confirmed the Government's commitment to protect the free bus travel concession.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on concessionary bus travel for pensioners in *(a)* England and *(b)* the City of York in each year since such schemes were introduced. [71502]

Norman Baker: Following the introduction of the England-wide statutory off-peak bus travel concession for older and disabled people in April 2008, the Department for Transport provided a portion of the funding through a special grant to local authorities from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011. Figures for the special grant for England and for the City of York in each of those years are shown in the following table:

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
England	212	217	223
City of York	1.112	1.138	1.520

From 1 April 2011 all funding for concessionary travel is provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through formula grant. Prior to that date, DCLG provided the majority of funding. In each year, returns to DCLG show that local authorities spent, in total, around £1 billion on both the statutory concession and their own locally funded enhancements to concessionary travel schemes. Further information is published by DCLG at the following web link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1827069.xls

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from *(a)* coach operators, *(b)* disability organisations, *(c)* other organisations and *(d)* individuals on changes in the funding of the concessionary coach travel scheme. [70299]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* By 12 September 2011, the Department for Transport had received representations on changes in the funding of the concessionary coach travel scheme from a coach operator and a number of individuals.

The Department has not received representations from any other organisations, including disability organisations, though individual Ministers may have in their constituency capacities.

The funding changes were announced as part of the 2010 spending review.

Bus Services: Contracts

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* quality contracts and *(b)* quality partnerships exist governing bus services in England; and what geographical locations they cover in each such case. [71664]

Norman Baker: Local transport authorities are not required to consult or inform the Government when making bus Quality Contract or Quality Partnership Schemes. It is my understanding that there are no Quality Contract Schemes in effect in England, and that there are currently three statutory Quality Partnership Schemes in effect in England: in Barnsley, in Nottingham and in Bath and North East Somerset.

Bus Services: GPS

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on which Passenger Transport Executives have bus fleets which *(a)* are fitted and *(b)* they plan to fit with global positioning system tracking systems. [70099]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not collect information from Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs) on whether the bus operators serving their areas are using buses or plan to use buses fitted with global positioning systems (GPS). The Department does publish statistics on the percentage of buses fitted with automatic vehicle location equipment (AVL), including GPS, which is collected through its annual public service vehicle survey of operators. This includes a figure for the English metropolitan areas (the six English PTEs). In 2009-10 53% of buses operating in the English metropolitan areas were fitted with AVL equipment. This is available on the Department's website at:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/bus0606.xls

Bus Services: Standards

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent report he has received from the Traffic Commissioners on bus punctuality. [71665]

Norman Baker: The latest published report from the Traffic Commissioners is the "Traffic Commissioners' Annual Reports 2009-10" which reports on their judicial, regulatory and administrative roles, including bus punctuality. Copies of the report were placed in the Libraries of the House when it was published in November 2010.

Caravans: Accidents

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on accidents related to the road worthiness of caravans; [71728]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the road worthiness of (i) type 1 and (ii) type 2 trailers. [71729]

Mike Penning: Research has been commissioned to determine the relevance of roadworthiness defects in accidents involving light trailers, included caravans, with an unladen weight not exceeding 1,020 kg that are drawn by a motor vehicle. The research will be evaluated and published once complete.

Cars: Tyres

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to extend the MOT test to cover spare tyres. [70693]

Mike Penning: I have no plans to extend the MOT test to include examination of spare tyres. I do intend to review the MOT test more broadly and expect to be in a position to clarify scope and timing of the review in the autumn.

Cycling: Children

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to encourage children to *(a)* walk and *(b)* cycle to school; and if he will make a statement. [70727]

Norman Baker: The Government are taking steps to encourage children to walk and cycle to school. In January we announced the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The Fund will make £560 million available to local authorities to help build strong local economies and address at a local level the urgent challenges of climate change, delivering cleaner environments, improving safety, and increasing physical activity. Many local authorities that were successful in bidding to the Fund in the first tranche have included school-based initiatives in their plans.

Furthermore, in 2011-12 the Fund has supported national projects including walk to school initiatives, walking and cycling links to schools and "Bike It" officers.

The Government have also committed to support Bikeability cycle training for the remainder of this Parliament. £11 million in grant funding has been made available in 2011-12, which will provide the opportunity for around 275,000 children to receive training at school.

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71140]

Norman Baker: Of the 929 named day questions tabled to the Department between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011, 502 (54%) received a holding, rather than a substantive, reply on the day named for answer. The corresponding figures for the period 9 March to 19 July 2011 were 320 and 175 (55%) respectively.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 Parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Driving: Eyesight

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the replacement of the number-plate test for drivers with a comprehensive eye test by a qualified medical practitioner *(a)* when taking an initial driving test, *(b)* for drivers at age 70 and *(c)* for all drivers at 10 year intervals. [68249]

Mike Penning: The Government are committed to reducing the regulatory burden on business and the public, and have no plans to commission research on replacing the existing number plate test with a more expensive compulsory eye-test.

Driving: Licensing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the policy of a driving licence holder undertaking a self-assessment to inform the potential suspension of a licence on medical grounds by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency; and if he will make a statement. [70901]

Mike Penning: There are no plans to review the current policy of self-notification by drivers of medical conditions that may affect their ability to drive safely.

Introducing a system of independent medical assessments by doctors for all driving licence applicants would cause great inconvenience and expense and is unnecessary. The current self-notification requirement strikes the right balance between road safety and the need for personal mobility.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time taken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is, once informed of concerns on medical grounds, of a driver's fitness to drive, to complete an investigation and, where appropriate, revoke the driver's licence; and if he will make a statement. [70902]

Mike Penning: The average time taken to complete a medical investigation into a driver's fitness to drive following a third party notification is not recorded. The agency's published service standards state that where medical inquires are needed, the agency will aim to make a decision in 85% of cases within 90 working days.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are taken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) to enforce the self-assessment of drivers who, on medical grounds, may be considered unfit to drive; whether third parties may make representations to the DVLA to investigate such drivers; whether medical professionals and the police have an obligation to report their concerns to the DVLA; and if he will make a statement. [70903]

Mike Penning: It is a criminal offence to fail to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of a medical condition that may affect safe driving. The DVLA makes information about the medical standards needed for driver licensing available on the application form, on information leaflets and also on the Internet to enable drivers to make an informed self-declaration.

The DVLA will accept third party notifications. These are often made by relatives, neighbours and health care professionals. Although there is no legal requirement for the police and medical professionals to make such notifications, guidelines issued by the General Medical Council and the College of Optometrists recommend reporting to the DVLA if advice from a doctor or optometrist to stop driving has been ignored.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average length of time was between a driver suspended from driving to receiving a notice of the revocation of their licence from the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [70910]

Mike Penning: The average time taken between a decision being made to revoke a driving licence following a third party notification and the driver receiving that notification is not held. From when the notification is prepared and sent, a four-day postal delivery period is included to ensure the driver is aware of the revocation before it becomes effective.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 434W, on electric vehicles, how many Type 2 connectors he expects to be installed in 2011; and in which locations. [70481]

Norman Baker: As I mentioned in my response of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 434W, this is a matter on which industry leads.

The market is already beginning to move towards the Type II connector to enable faster public recharging. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of Type II connectors that the market will install this year and their precise locations.

The Plugged-In Places projects are already installing Type II connectors though some projects have elected to continue installing some standard three-pin charge points, for a short time, to support legacy electric vehicles that are not in a position to utilise the Type II connector.

All projects plan to move to install only Type II infrastructure in public places before the end of the year.

Energy Networks

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage the linking of the trans-European transport and energy networks. [71095]

Mrs Villiers: As yet the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not taken any such steps.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Uniforms

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government Car and Despatch Agency has spent on uniforms for its drivers in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [69772]

Mike Penning: Records available for the period April 2010 to March 2011 show that the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent £16,000 on uniforms during that time. All purchases were made through OGC Buying Solutions. Of the £16,000 spent, £11,000 was spent on Government mail driver uniforms and £5,000 on Government Car driver uniforms. By way of comparison, for the period April 2009 to March 2010 the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent a total of £41,000 on uniforms.

Humber Bridge

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what purpose CCTV is used on the Humber Bridge; and what the cost has been of *(a)* installation and *(b)* maintenance since its installation. [69755]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not have responsibility for operation of the Humber bridge. The Humber Bridge Board may be able to supply the information requested.

M1: Road Traffic

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what further steps he plans to take to reduce congestion northbound between junctions 27 and 28 on the M1 motorway at rush hour times; and if he will make a statement. [71302]

Mike Penning: The congestion northbound is due to the transition from the four lane section to a three lane section at junction 28. There is also additional traffic that joins the northbound M1 from the A38.

Recent Improvements

M1 Junction 27 to 28 forms part of the section that was widened in May 2010. This comprises a section of controlled motorway designed to reduce congestion. It uses variable mandatory speed limits to help manage traffic flows at peak times or following an incident. It is a component of managed motorways, which uses a range of innovative technology combined with new operating procedures to actively control traffic flow. Techniques such as varying the speed limits, opening up the hard shoulder to traffic or limiting access to the motorway from slip roads when needed are all measures of managed motorways designed to reduce congestion.

Future Improvements

M1 J28 to 31 Managed Motorway scheme is currently in the preliminary design phase, which will be completed by summer 2012. This scheme is prioritised as one of the fourteen schemes which is to proceed into construction before April 2015. The project will increase the capacity of the M1 Junction 28 to 31, by making the existing hard shoulder suitable for use as a running lane and introducing managed motorway technology.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking in respect of the cost of insurance premiums for motorists. [71045]

Mike Penning: The Government are concerned about the rising cost of motor insurance and are taking a number of steps to mitigate this including:

The Ministry of Justice are taking forward fundamental reform to no win no fee conditional fee agreements, which will make the costs of defending personal injury claims more proportionate. These reforms are included in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, currently before Parliament.

The Government will ban referral fees in personal injury cases.

Reduce uninsured driving by the recent introduction of a new offence of keeping a vehicle without insurance, known as the continuous insurance enforcement scheme.

Tackling fraud by; (a) from 2012 a specialist insurance fraud police unit will be established; and (b) looking to allow insurers access to the DVLA driver record to prevent situations where drivers who have given inaccurate information when taking out insurance being only detected when they make a claim, which can then be refused.

The Government are taking a number of steps as set out in the Road Safety Strategy published on 11 May such as; the introduction of fixed penalty notices for careless driving, tougher enforcement for drink and drug driving, better information for the public and professionals, more remedial education and improvements in training and testing.

Motor Vehicles: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many domestic vehicles in each vehicle excise duty band were registered to addresses in York in the latest period for which figures are available. [71505]

Mike Penning: The following table gives the number of privately registered cars, motorcycles (including scooters and mopeds) and light vans, broken down by vehicle excise duty class, that were licensed and registered to addresses in the city of York unitary council on 30 June 2011.

	Number
Post-2001 cars (based on CO_2 emissions)	
Cars Band A (up to 100 g/km)	171
Cars Band B (101-110 g/km)	1,212
Cars Band C (111-120 g/km)	3,062
Cars Band D (121-130 g/km)	2,905
Cars Band E (131-140 g/km)	8,104
Cars Band F (141-150 g/km)	9,007
Cars Band G (151-165 g/km)	13,546
Cars Band H (166-175 g/km)	6,013
Cars Band I (176-185 g/km)	4,530

	Number
Cars Band J (186-200 g/km)	4,447
Cars Band K[1] (201-225 g/km)	4,326
Cars Band L (226-255 g/km)	1,368
Cars Band M (over 255 g/km)	890
Pre-2001 cars (based on engine size)	
Cars over 1549cc	8,914
Cars under 1550 cc	6,000
Cars exempt from VED	1,334
Motorcycles	
Motorcycles up to 150 cc	1,601
Motorcycles 151 to 400 cc	327
Motorcycles 401 to 600 cc	626
Motorcycles more than 600 cc	1,907
Motorcycles exempt from VED	501
Light goods vehicles[2]	
Light goods under 1550 cc	216
Light goods over 1549 cc	3,865
Light goods exempt from VED	144

[1] Band K includes cars that have a CO_2 figure over 225 g/km but were registered before 23 March 2006.

[2] Includes only light goods vehicles that are privately registered. It is likely that some of these vehicles will also be used for commercial purposes.

Railways: Fares

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the potential effect on rail passenger numbers of the proposed increase in rail fares. [70132]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 335W.

Rescue Services

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how an emergency incident would be co-ordinated from beginning to end and what the role of the *(a)* Maritime Operations Centre and *(b)* Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres will be in that process under his Department's revised proposals for the future of the coastguard. [69445]

Mike Penning: The role of the Maritime Operations Centre and Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres in coordinating an emergency incident, under the revised coastguard modernisation proposals can be found on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/concept_of_operations_doc

Roads: Accidents

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road users excluding cyclists have been *(a)* killed or *(b)* injured in (i) Pendle constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) nationwide in road traffic accidents involving cyclists in each of the last five years; [71770]

(2) how many cyclists have been *(a)* killed or *(b)* injured as a result of road traffic accidents in each of the last five years. [71771]

Mike Penning: The number of reported road casualties, excluding pedal cyclists, *(a)* killed or *(b)* seriously or slightly injured, resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving pedal cyclists is shown in Table 1, for the years 2006-10 and for the areas requested.

The number of reported pedal cyclists *(a)* killed or *(b)* seriously or slightly injured, as a result of reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain is shown in Table 2, for the years 2006-10.

Table 1: Reported road casualties, excluding pedal cyclists, resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving pedal cyclists, by injury severity and area, 2006-10

Number of casualties

	Killed			*Seriously or slightly injured*		
Accident year	*Pendle[1]*	*Lancashire[2]*	*GB*	*Pendle[1]*	*Lancashire[2]*	*GB*
2006	0	0	4	0	13	505
2007	0	0	2	0	14	502
2008	0	0	0	1	29	436
2009	0	0	2	0	12	497
2010	0	0	2	1	13	469

[1] Parliamentary constituency of Pendle, based on 2010 constituency boundary.

[2] Includes Blackburn and Blackpool unitary authorities.

Table 2: Reported pedal cyclist casualties, by injury severity, GB: 2006-10

Number of casualties

Accident year	*Killed*	*Seriously or slightly injured*	*All pedal cyclist casualties*
2006	146	16,050	16,196
2007	136	16,059	16,195
2008	115	16,182	16,297
2009	104	16,960	17,064
2010	111	17,074	17,185

Shipping: EU Law

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to implement a new port state control system following the request from the European Commission of 19 May 2011. [69204]

Mike Penning: The UK already has an established port state control regime based on the 1995 Council Directive. The Commission's letter concerns the UK's implementation of the recast 2009 Directive, with part of which the UK is already compliant. Draft UK Regulations and supporting documents to complete implementation of the Directive are under consultation with the shipping sector until 9 September. After consideration of the responses and regulatory clearance, the draft Regulations are intended to be in place by the end of the year.

Speed Limits: Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the recommendations contained in the Committee on Climate Change's recent progress report on enforcement of speed limits to reduce carbon emissions. [68675]

Mike Penning: Enforcement of speed limits is a matter for the police. The latest figures, not available when the Committee on Climate Change's report was drafted, show that speeding on the motorways declined in 2010. Preliminary work considering the increase of the motorway speed limit to 80 mph is in progress: carbon emissions will be part of the assessment.

Thameslink Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which external consultants were contracted to advise his Department on the *(a)* design, *(b)* tendering and *(c)* award of preferred bidder status for the Thameslink rolling stock contract; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such contract. [R] [68716]

Mrs Villiers: The cost of each contract against the categories requested up to June 2011 is as follows:

£ million

Vendor	*(a) Design*	*(b) Tendering*[1]	*(c) Award of preferred bidder status*
Arup	2.53	2.86	0.14
Booz and Company	0.22	0.49	0.09
Freshfields	2.44	5.31	0.18
Interfleet	0.16	1.49	0.02
PWC	0.77	2.26	0.26
Total	6.12	12.4	0.69
Total		19.2	

[1] Tendering relates to evaluation.

Note:

These figures exclude VAT.

Travel: Accidents

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* serious travel-related accidents there have been in (i) the City of York and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996-97. [71504]

Mike Penning: The number of *(a)* fatal and *(b)* serious road accidents reported to the police, in (i) York unitary authority and (ii) the former Government office region of Yorkshire and the Humber, is given in the following table:

Number of personal injury road accidents

	(i) York unitary authority		*(ii) Yorkshire and the Humber*[1]	
	(a) Fatal	*(b) Serious*	*(a) Fatal*	*(b) Serious*
1996[2]	3	59	292	3,220
1997	7	111	295	3,175
1998	4	70	286	3,001
1999	8	106	285	2,922
2000	12	73	288	2,800
2001	6	108	299	2,858
2002	8	103	294	2,893
2003	8	70	296	2,808
2004	7	94	288	2,709
2005	9	71	276	2,507
2006	6	114	278	2,538
2007	4	77	254	2,579
2008	9	71	203	2,362
2009	4	51	189	2,094
2010	4	56	161	1,965

[1] The former Government office region of Yorkshire and the Humber

[2] In April 1996 the city of York local authority became a unitary authority and increased in size.

The Department does not hold any railway and air accident information broken down for the City of York and the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Vehicle Number Plates: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on how many vehicles registered in Great Britain have a national flag on their number plate. [70870]

Mike Penning: The Department does not hold any information about the number of Great Britain registered vehicles with a national flag on their number plate.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the availability of equipment to be despatched to armed forces in Afghanistan. [70648]

Peter Luff: Success in Afghanistan is the top priority for Defence and we are fully committed to ensuring that the campaign is properly resourced, funded and equipped. Operational commanders have confirmed they have the equipment they need to fulfil the strategy set for them in Afghanistan. This is the result of a continual cycle of equipment upgrades since operations began, a process the Government remain firmly committed to.

On support to current operations, 95% of urgent operational requirements exceeded or met the expected delivery date, 42% were achieved below the approved cost and 104 of the 106 projects approved were delivered in-year.

For our longer-term equipment programmes we have developed an early warning system that uses key performance indicators to indicate where we may have future issues on a project that will need to be addressed. The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon.

Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) has also established the Major Projects Review Board which will regularly review the top 50 equipment projects managed by the Department to ensure that corrective measures are taken, particularly where a project is running over budget or behind expected timelines.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* official and *(b)* VIP visits to (i) Headley Court and (ii) the wards of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham managed by his Department his Department has authorised since 12 May 2010; and how many applications for such visits have been refused. [71389]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Records of official visits to these facilities date from June 2010. In that period, this Department has authorised 31 such visits to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, during which a total of 40 senior military officials and civilian VIPs attended. 25 visits were authorised to the designated Military Ward at the Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham, during which a total of 37 senior military officials and civilian VIPs attended. Visits by groups such as the House of Commons Defence Committee are counted as a single visit, but with the total number of visitors counted separately. The numbers provided exclude supporting personnel such as military assistants. Records of visits refused are not held.

Defence Support Group

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* Babcock, *(b)* BAE Systems and *(c)* General Dynamics UK on the sale of Defence Support Group properties. [70846]

Peter Luff: Defence Ministers and officials meet with industry on a routine basis to discuss a wide range of defence issues, including the sale of the Defence Support Group (DSG). I am withholding details of these discussions as their disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. Nevertheless, the decision to sell the DSG, announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review White Paper last October, has generated significant interest within industry. Although the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is not yet in a position to invite formal expressions of interest in the sale, we have received some early and speculative approaches from a number of companies, including BAES, Babcock and General Dynamics (UK). MOD officials have met informally with BAES and Babcock, at the request of the companies, to allow them to explain their interest in the DSG in more detail.

Defence: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which foreign companies have been awarded contracts that included an obligation for industrial participation in the latest period for which figures are available; what the value of each contract was; and which of these contracts was subject to Treaty exemption under Article 346. [70862]

Peter Luff: The UK's industrial participation policy is voluntary. No foreign defence companies have been awarded contracts that include a contractual obligation for industrial participation. We are currently reviewing our industrial participation policy to ensure it remains compatible with EU law.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information regarding offset commitments has been provided to the European Defence Agency since Directive 2009/81/EC was transposed into UK law. [70863]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has not presented any information to the European Defence Agency in relation to the UK's industrial participation commitments for foreign Defence companies since Directive 2009/81/EC was transposed into national law.

European Fighter Aircraft

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has considered using the Typhoon as an alternative to the F35 Joint Strike Fighter to serve on the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers; and if he will estimate the potential cost to the public purse of using the Typhoon as an alternative to the F35 Joint Strike Fighter in terms of *(a)* initial purchase, *(b)* maintenance and *(c)* compatibility with the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers. [70322]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* A 'marinised' variant of the Typhoon aircraft was considered, along with a number of other options, before the decision was taken to select the Joint Strike Fighter to satisfy the UK's future Joint Combat Aircraft requirement. All option studies undertaken to date have consistently concluded that the Joint Strike Fighter provided the best value for money in light of our future capability requirements.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 801, and with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North Durham, of 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1140W, on joint strike fighter aircraft, what the evidential basis is for the statement that the carrier version of the joint strike fighter will be less expensive than the version commissioned by the previous Administration. [71804]

Peter Luff: All cost data provided by both the Joint Strike Fighter F35 contractors and the US Department of Defense indicate that the average unit price for the carrier variant will be lower than that estimated for the Short Take Off and Vertical Landing variant. These costs are supported by latest production data and are independently validated both in the US and UK.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of weapons used by UK forces in support of Operation Ellamy was represented by Brimstone and precision missiles. [70222]

Nick Harvey: From the start of current operations in Libya up till 1 September 2011, UK forces have employed around 1,100 precision guided munitions, 110 direct fire weapons, 4,100 rounds of direct fire 30 mm cannon rounds, and around 240 high explosive or illumination rounds from 4.5 inch naval guns. Therefore, excluding 30 mm cannon rounds, 76% of weapons employed were precision guided. We carefully select the type of weapon in every engagement to ensure the most appropriate munition is used to deliver the required effect, while minimising the risk of civilian casualties.

The precision-guided munitions used include Dual Mode Seeker Brimstone, Enhanced Paveway II, Paveway IV, Storm Shadow missiles and Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles. Direct fire munitions include Hellfire missiles and CRV-7 rockets.

RAF Coningsby

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether additional Quick Reaction Alert provision will be created at RAF Coningsby following the drawdown of the Typhoon force from RAF Leuchars. [71347]

Nick Harvey: Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) North will transfer from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth; therefore there is no plan for additional QRA provision created at RAF Coningsby.

Type 26 Frigates

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Capability Decision Point will be reached for the Type 26 Frigate programme. [70861]

Peter Luff: The Type 26 Global Combat Ship programme is currently in its assessment phase, which is expected to be complete by early 2014. The capability decision point, an internal programme milestone, will be reached as part of this phase.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future unmanned combat air vehicles research funding; and if he will make a statement. [70638]

Peter Luff: In March 2011, the Defence Research and Development Board endorsed the concept of an "Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) research and development pipeline."

This will provide high level overview of, and direction to, the UK's UAS research and technology effort, which includes that relevant to unmanned combat air vehicles, over the next five years. In addition to technological research it will underpin an ability to test, evaluate, support and operate such systems in the future.

More about this pipeline can be found in the joint doctrine note 2/11, "The UK approach to Unmanned Aircraft Systems", which is available at the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/microsite/dcdc/ourpublications/JDNP/JDN211TheUKApproachToUnmannedAircraftSystems.htm

A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION

Children: Day Care

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of childcare settings in *(a)* the 10 per cent. most deprived areas, *(b)* the 10 per cent. least deprived areas and *(c)* all areas were assessed as inadequate by Ofsted in each year since 2008-09. [70255]

Sarah Teather: This information is held by Ofsted. The chief inspector, Miriam Rosen, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 7 September 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The information you require is presented in Tables A - C

Ofsted's inspection framework for childcare changed on 1 September 2008 with the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage. For 2008-09 we have therefore provided data separately for the inspection framework in place from 1 April 2008 - 31 August 2008 and the current Early Years Foundation Stage inspection framework, which was introduced on 1 September 2008.

Our source for identifying the most and least deprived local authorities is the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2010. This is a supplementary index of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and is produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. It is updated every three years. More information can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Governments website:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010?view=Standard

A copy of this reply has been sent to Sarah Teather MP, Minister of State for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both houses.

Table A: Inspections of child care providers between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2011 for the 10% most deprived local authority areas[1,2]

Period	*Total inspections*	*Total inadequate*	*Percentage inadequate*
1 April 2008 to 31 August 2008	813	114	14
Introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage			
1 September 2008 to 31 March 2009	965	110	11
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	1,485	158	11
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	1,166	91	8

[1] Data are based on the information held about inspections as at 31 March 2011.

[2] Source for identifying the 10% most and least deprived local authorities is the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2010, (IDACI 2010), a supplementary index of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government: www.communities.gov.uk

Table B: Inspection data for child care providers between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2011 for the 10% least deprived local authority areas[1,2]

Period	*Total inspections*	*Total inadequate*	*Percentage inadequate*
1 April 2008 to 31 August 2008	895	47	5

Table B: Inspection data for child care providers between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2011 for the 10% least deprived local authority areas[1,2]

Period	*Total inspections*	*Total inadequate*	*Percentage inadequate*
Introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage			
1 September 2008 to 31 March 2009	1,791	81	5
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	2,728	113	4
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	1,908	58	3

[1] Data are based on the information held about inspections as at 31 March 2011.

[2] Source for identifying the 10% most and least deprived local authorities is the income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2010, (IDAD 2010), a supplementary Index of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government

www.communities.gov.uk

Table C: Inspection data for child care providers between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2011 for England[1]

Period	*Total inspections*	*Total inadequate*	*Percentage inadequate*
1 April 2008 to 31 August 2008	8,931	670	8
Introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage			
1 September 2008 to 31 March 2009	15,955	1,073	7
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	24,313	1,444	6
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	17,144	698	4

[1] Data are based on the information held about inspections as at 31 March 2011

Early Years Foundation Stage Review

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he plans to consider continence in the revised Early Years Foundation Stage; and whether the special education needs single statutory assessment and new developmental review for two-year-olds will include assessment of continence needs. [71020]

Sarah Teather: The revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) welfare requirements continue to require early years providers to take necessary steps to promote the welfare of children. The document provides a guide for practitioners on expectations in relation to children's development, including physical development, at different age ranges. Where providers have specific concerns about a child's progress they should engage parents and, if necessary, experts to provide appropriate support.

Proposals for the revised EYFS include, subject to consultation, the introduction of a written summary of progress for all children attending early years provision between the ages of 24 and 36 months. This would cover children's development in the following areas: personal, social and emotional development, physical development, and communication and language.

Changes to the single assessment of special educational needs will be piloted in local areas. We are not yet in a position to make decisions about which assessments, and which provision, a new single plan might include.

Schools: Attendance

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures he plans to use to monitor the progress of the lowest attaining 20% of children in schools. [69725]

Sarah Teather: In the recent Green Paper, "Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability", we announced our intention to introduce a new measure in performance tables relating to the progress made by the lowest attaining 20% of pupils. This measure is intended to help show parents and the public how well schools do in supporting those pupils who start with low attainment to progress. We have consulted on this proposal through the Green Paper consultation exercise and are carefully considering the responses. We will publish further detailed plans on this by the end of the year.

Schools: Sanitation

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to incorporate regulations on water and toilet facilities in his revision of the School Premises Regulations. [70978]

Mr Gibb: Subject to public consultation, which I expect to commence in October, the new regulations will include water supplies and toilet and washing facilities.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Alternative Vote

Thomas Docherty: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what his most recent estimate is of the funding that has been provided to *(a)* each local authority in (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) Scotland and *(b)* the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to meet the cost of the referendum on the alternative vote. [71615]

Mr Streeter *[holding answer 13 September 2011]*: The Electoral Commission informs me that a total of £79,762,679 was provided for in The Referendum on the Voting System (Counting Officers' Charges) Order 2011, which is available on:

www.legislation.gov.uk

Schedule 1 and 2 of the Order shows the maximum recoverable amounts for each voting area. In England voting areas were defined as local authority areas, however, in Scotland they were Scottish Parliament constituencies. In Wales the voting areas were the Welsh Assembly constituencies and Northern Ireland was a single voting area.

Counting Officers and Regional Counting Officers have until 5 January 2012 to submit final accounts to the Election Claims Unit. It is only after all the final accounts have been received and agreed that the final cost of the referendum can be confirmed.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

High Street Support Scheme

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the funds provided by his Department in respect of the High Street Support scheme are allocated from existing budgets; and if he will make a statement. [71790]

Mr Davey: The Department's £7 million contribution to the High Street Support scheme will be funded from existing budgets. This is possible through utilising underspends achieved through reducing the ongoing commitments and maximising the returns on assets as part of the closure of Regional Development Agencies.

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether facilities provided to the ASLEF union and funded through the Transforming Communications with Union Members project from the Union Modernisation Fund have been used for campaigning and political purposes. [71038]

Mr Davey: The Transforming Communications project created an enhanced website and mobile phone facilities in order to enable communication with members in a modern environment; provide access for members to documents libraries, which would otherwise not be available to them either because of size or cost; encourage members to express their views and identify training needs.

We are not aware of the use of these facilities for campaigns or political purposes but a series of member surveys, discussion forums and online voting have been undertaken to provide improved opportunities for members to have their voice heard, to meet individual members' needs and to improve membership services.

Improving two-way communications between unions and their members and providing services geared to the needs of a diverse membership were key themes for this round of Union Modernisation Fund projects.

Business

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department collected any data on *(a)* levels of awareness among small and medium-sized businesses of sources of advice and support on compliance issues and *(b)* their satisfaction with such sources in each year since 2005. [67057]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills carries out regular surveys of businesses, many of which touch on awareness of compliance with regulation.

In addition the Anderson Review (January 2009) "The Good Guidance Guide: taking the uncertainty out of regulation" focused on this issue. The BIS Small Business Survey asks small and medium-sized enterprise employers a range of questions including where they go for business advice and the nature of their query. For more detailed information see:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/analytical-unit/research-and-evaluation/cross-cutting-research

The current consultation on Enforcement Strategy will gather further up-to-date evidence. This consultation will run until 16 September 2011, and can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/improving-regulatory-delivery/consultation-enforcement-strategy

Businesses: Fraud

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the annual number of start-up businesses that fail as a result of fraudulent activity against such companies. [70753]

Mr Davey: The Office for National Statistics produce the official statistics on business start-ups and closures

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bus-register/business-demography/2009/index.html

but information is not collected on the reason for business closure.

Foreign Defence Companies

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department takes to monitor whether foreign defence companies meet their industrial participation obligations; [70838]

(2) how many contracts by *(a)* company and *(b)* value have been placed with UK companies by foreign defence companies in order to reach the required level of industrial participation credits in each of the last 10 years; [70839]

(3) which defence companies his Department is auditing regarding industrial participation. [70840]

Mr Davey: UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) monitors offshore companies' delivery of industrial participation (IP) through a Letter of Agreement (LOA). Under the terms and conditions of the LOA, the offshore company submits biannual reports to BIS.

The UK invites foreign defence companies to submit voluntary IP proposals. Her Majesty's Government does not place IP contracts and does not specify a level of IP credit.

The following defence companies submit a report in accordance with a Letter of Agreement with UK MOD:

Boeing

EADS

Raytheon/ Lockheed Martin (Joint Programme)

Elbit

L-3 Communications.

Inward Investment: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much foreign investment in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* the City of York there was in each year since 2003; and what estimate he has made of the number of jobs generated by such investment in each of those years. [71430]

Mr Davey: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) records the number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects entering the UK each year. The following table shows the number of FDI projects and associated jobs recorded by UKTI in Yorkshire and the Humber for financial years 2003/04 to 2010/11. Information specific to the City of York is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FDI Projects in Yorkshire and the Humber

	Number of projects	*Number of new jobs*	*Number of safeguarded jobs*	*Total number of associated jobs*
2003/04	25	934	1,214	2,148
2004/05	54	2,599	699	3,298
2005/06	54	1,934	2,565	4,499
2006/07	54	1,801	1,045	2,846
2007/08	124	3,405	2,906	6,311
2008/09	125	1,869	4,719	6,588
2009/10	147	2,016	3,895	5,911
2010/11	88	868	670	1,538
Totals	671	15,426	17,713	33,139

Source:
UKTI Database

National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether facilities provided to the RMT union and funded through the RMT Remote Access Project have been used for campaigning and political purposes. [71036]

Mr Davey: The Remote Access Project created enhanced website facilities include an integrated voice messaging/SMS function to enable better targeting of services to meet individual members' needs and to improve interaction between the union and its members.

We are not aware of the use of these facilities for campaigns or political purposes but newsletters, circulars, bulletins and news articles were used between the union to raise awareness of union members of the development and subsequent availability of the website, the improved access to information and membership services for offices located remotely.

Improving two-way communications between unions and their members and providing services geared to the needs of a diverse membership were key themes for this round of Union Modernisation Fund projects.

Overseas Investment: India

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had on the conduct of British-based multinational corporations that are investors in the acquisition of Adivasi land in central India. [71153]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has not had discussions with specific British multinationals that are investors in the acquisition of Adivasi land in central India on their conduct of these transactions.

Overseas Trade: Balkans

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the levels of *(a)* trade and *(b)* investment between the UK and (i) Macedonia and (ii) Serbia in (A) 2009 and (B) 2010. [70033]

Mr Davey: In 2009 bilateral trade in goods and services with Macedonia was valued at £76 million. In 2010 bilateral trade in goods with Macedonia was valued at £267 million.

In 2009 bilateral trade in goods and services with Serbia and Montenegro was valued at £348 million. In[1] 2010 bilateral trade in goods with Serbia and Montenegro was valued at £183 million. (Data for the UK's trade in goods and services are not yet available separately for Serbia and Montenegro).

Precise figures for the level of investment made by UK companies is more difficult to ascertain, but estimates put this figure for Macedonia at £46 million in 2010. UK investment in Serbia was estimated to be £45 million in 2009 and £46 million in 2010.

No data are available for Macedonian or Serbian Foreign Direct Investment into the UK.

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[1] Statistics for bilateral trade in goods and services for 2010 will be published on 5 October.

Unite

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether facilities provided to the Amicas/Unite union and funded through the Piloting IT Services for Branches Project have been used for campaigning and political purposes. [71037]

Mr Davey: The Piloting IT Services for Branches Project created enhanced website facilities including a discussion board to improve the services and communication for members from branch secretaries.

We are not aware of the use of these facilities for campaigns or political purposes but a survey of IT skills was undertaken to meet the training needs of the union's branch secretaries. The development of these skills was necessary to support the website's discussion board facility and together with the introduction of weekly emails for members, was needed to improve engagement and communication and to provide more effective membership services.

Improving two-way communications between unions and their members and providing services geared to the needs of a diverse membership were key themes for this round of Union Modernisation Fund projects.

JUSTICE

CCTV

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the use of television cameras in law courts. [71577]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Last month I received a letter from the Lord Chief Justice on behalf of himself and senior judiciary regarding the use of television cameras in law courts. I also received letters from BBC News, Sky and ITN in January of this year following on from a meeting on this subject in October last year.

Civil Disorder: Compensation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many compensation orders have been issued to people found guilty of offences connected with public disorder in August 2011; and what the total amount of compensation specified in such orders is. [71355]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 378W.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse of the reduction in funding for staff of HM Courts and Tribunals Service to accompany magistrates to community meetings. [71032]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Decisions about funding for staff to accompany magistrates to community meetings are handled at a local level by HMCTS and are made on a case-by-case basis.

While HMCTS is operating within a reduced budget as part of the Government's deficit reduction plan, there has been no specific reduction in the funding for staff to accompany magistrates to community meetings. Consequently there has been no assessment of the savings to the public purse.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the reduction in funding for HM Courts and Tribunals Service staff to accompany magistrates to community meetings. [71033]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Decisions about funding for staff to accompany magistrates to community meetings are handled at a local level by HMCTS and are made on a case-by-case basis.

While HMCTS is operating within a reduced budget as part of the Government's deficit reduction plan, there has been no specific reduction in the funding for staff to accompany magistrates to community meetings. Consequently, there has been no assessment of the potential effects of the reduction in funding.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by his Department as of March 2011. [71222]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: As of March 2011 the Ministry of Justice has no private finance initiatives projects in procurement and consequently there is no estimated value of tax receipts available.

Drugs: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in the London borough of Bexley have been convicted of offences of *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of illegal class A drugs in each of the last five years; and how many people received (i) a custodial sentence and (ii) the maximum available sentence in each case. [71544]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty and sentenced at all courts to immediate custody, and those receiving the maximum sentence available for possession, possession with intent to supply, and supply of a controlled drug in the Metropolitan police force area, for the years 2006 to 2010 (latest available) are presented in the following table.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown of London borough cases.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts and sentenced for possession, possession with intent to supply, and supply of a controlled drug[1], and those receiving the maximum sentence available, Metropolitan police force area, 2006-10[2,3]

Drug offences/ Outcome	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Possession class A (maximum seven years)					
Found guilty	11,469	13,389	14,599	13,742	12,254
Sentenced[4]	11,402	13,286	14,516	13,670	12,175
Of which:					
Immediate custody	796	903	985	776	779
Other sentence[5]	10,606	12,383	13,531	12,894	11,396
Maximum sentence[6]	8	2	4	9	2
Possession with intent to supply class A (maximum life)					
Found guilty	3,105	3,500	4,010	3,675	3,753
Sentenced[4]	3,037	3,473	3,972	3,696	3,687
Of which:					
Immediate custody	2,260	2,469	2,913	2,835	2,779
Other sentence[5]	777	1,004	1,059	861	908
Maximum sentence[6]	—	—	2	—	—
Supply class A (maximum life)					
Found guilty	2,616	2,633	2,968	2,804	2,549
Sentenced[4]	2,587	2,594	2,976	2,809	2,530
Of which:					
Immediate custody	1,796	1,810	2,045	1,979	1,756
Other sentence[5]	791	784	931	830	774

Number of persons found guilty at all courts and sentenced for possession, possession with intent to supply, and supply of a controlled drug[1], and those receiving the maximum sentence available. Metropolitan police force area, 2006-10[2,3]

Drug offences/ Outcome	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Maximum sentence[6]	—	—	2	—	—

'—' = Nil

[1] Offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken Into account when those data are used.

[4] Those sentenced may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced In the following year.

[5] Other sentence includes absolute discharge, conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, fully suspended sentence, and otherwise dealt with.

[6] Maximum sentence for offences as follows:

Possession class A: seven years

Possession with intent to supply class A: life

Supply class A: life

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Drugs: Reading

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Reading West constituency have been convicted of *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of illegal class A drugs in each of the last five years; and how many people received (i) a custodial sentence and (ii) the maximum sentence in each case. [71429]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody and those receiving the maximum sentence available at all courts for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, in the Thames Valley police force area for the years 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Information available centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by parliamentary constituency.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Persons found guilty and sentenced at all courts for possession, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug and maximum sentence available. Thames Valley police force area, 2006-10[1,2]

Drug offences	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Possession class A (Max 7 years)					
Found guilty	439	494	493	450	394
Total sentenced[3]	436	491	490	450	397
Immediate custody	27	46	36	32	24
Other sentences[4]	409	445	454	418	373
Maximum sentence[5]	—	—	—	—	—
Supply class A (Max life)					
Found guilty	112	105	129	81	116
Total sentenced[3]	114	104	131	79	113
Immediate custody	93	72	94	55	68
Other sentences[4]	21	32	37	24	25
Maximum sentence[5]	—	—	—	—	—
Possession with intent to supply Class A (Max life)					
Found guilty	38	23	32	35	23
Total sentenced[3]	37	22	34	34	22
Immediate custody	21	11	25	29	12
Other sentences[4]	16	11	9	5	10
Maximum sentence[5]	—	—	—	—	—

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[4] Other sentences: absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentences, suspended sentences, otherwise dealt with.

[5] Maximum custodial sentences as follows: Possession class A—7 years: Supply class A—life; Possession with intent to supply class A—life. All offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Incentives

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Prison Service has spent on staff bonuses in each of the last three years. [71638]

Mr Blunt: Depending on their various terms and conditions, staff employed in the National Offender Management Service (including HM Prison Service) may be eligible for (a) 'year-end' and (b) 'in-year' non-consolidated performance related pay.

The National Offender Management Service (including HM Prison Service) has different staff groups who are covered by separate pay determination arrangements and 'year-end' and 'in-year' non-consolidated performance payments are made. The Senior Salaries Review Body provides recommendations on non-consolidated performance payments for members of the senior civil service (SCS).

Information on the total amount of 'year-end' non-consolidated performance payments paid to staff below SCS across the National Offender Management Service (including HM Prison Service) in the 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 performance years is contained in the following table[1]:

Performance year	*Total amount paid (£)*
2008-09	1,426,330
2009-10	1,629,784
2010-11	1,487,082

Information on the total amount of 'in-year' non-consolidated performance payments paid to staff below the SCS across the National Offender Management Service (including HM Prison Service) in the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years is contained in the following table[2]:

Financial year	*Total amount paid (£)*
2008-09	2,110,012
2009-10	1,609,340
2010-11	966,852

[1] Information excludes senior civil servants which are reported by the Ministry of Justice as a whole.

[2] Information has been adjusted to exclude payments that have been found not to be 'in year' performance payments. The figures presented here will therefore differ from previously published totals. Information excludes staff that transferred to the Ministry of Justice Headquarters in June 2010.

Legal Aid Scheme

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues about removing clinical negligence from the scope of legal aid. [71807]

Mr Djanogly: I have had discussions with a number of ministerial colleagues. Those discussions have covered a range of matters affecting our respective Departments, including the potential impact that our proposals to reform legal aid could have on those colleagues' Departments.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people accessed legal aid in connection with claims for clinical negligence in the last year for which figures are available. [71808]

Mr Djanogly: According to data held by the Legal Services Commission, the number of certificates granted for legal representation for clinical negligence cases in 2010-11 was 2,897. In the same financial year 3,977 Legal Help matters were started in the clinical negligence category.

Legal Services Commission: Closures

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of potential effects on his Department of the planned closure of the Legal Services Commission. [71810]

Mr Djanogly: A final impact assessment of the abolition of the Legal Services Commission was published alongside the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill in June 2011, which contains the enabling clauses for abolition. This lays out the best estimates as to the costs and benefits of abolishing the LSC and is available here:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/bills-acts/legal-aid-sentencing/ia-abolition-lsc.pdf

National Archives

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many documents have been identified as missing from the National Archives; and what steps are being taken to recover any such documents. [71350]

Mr Djanogly: As of 8 September 2011, 1,674 documents at the National Archives were identified as missing, which represents around 0.01% of their collection of over 11 million public records. Most of these records have been misfiled and are quickly located and accounted for. The National Archives has an ongoing programme dedicated to locating such documents, so this number fluctuates slightly although the level remains fairly consistent. A small number of incorrectly located documents at any one time is an inevitable consequence of being one of the most open and accessible archives in the world.

The National Archives produces over 600,000 documents for readers annually, with a document ordered on average once every 10 seconds on busy days. Occasionally, records are found not to be in their correct location within the 185 km of shelving, generally as a result of human error. The National Archives proactively monitors all missing documents on a weekly basis and employs a robust 11 stage search process. This includes tracking the document's movements on its ordering system, searching reading rooms and inspecting documents viewed by the same user. Documents in use at the same time, those in the same series, those with similar reference numbers, and documents filed in the same area are also searched. Documents which are not located after an initial search are listed as 'missing' on The National Archives' online catalogue.

Prison and Probation Services

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 31WS, on prison and probation services (England and Wales), what pilot exercises in regard to rehabilitation he intends to run; and if he will make a statement. [70898]

Mr Blunt: On 13 July the Ministry of Justice published the Government's response to the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle". In this document we set out our plans to tackle re-offending through payment by results.

A pilot is running at HMP Peterborough and six justice reinvestment pilots are running across Greater Manchester and in five London boroughs. Further to this, in 2011 we will be starting a pilot at HMP Doncaster and are in the process of developing pilots in the community (probation), in public sector prisons, jointly with the DWP Work Programme and will also be creating an opportunity for providers to come to us with innovative proposals. We are also supporting the development and implementation of payment by results approaches for drug and alcohol recovery, led by the Department of Health, which includes offenders. We expect these additional pilots to commence in 2012. Finally, the Youth Justice Board intend to run four pilots over a two year period, targeting reductions in the number of young people being sentenced or remanded to custody.

Through piloting payment by results we will learn what works to enable us to develop our future policy.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on prison and probation services (England and Wales), what selection criteria were used by the National Offender Management Service to decide on *(a)* which prisons to market test and *(b)* which prisons to close; and if he will make a statement. [70899]

Mr Blunt: To determine the prisons included in the competition announcement that I made on 13 July 2011 the following publicly available data were taken into account:

Prison category

Prison location (region)

The following internal metrics were also taken into account.

Prison size as defined by operational capacity in March 2010

Direct cost per place as defined by operational capacity in March 2010. Direct costs are taken from 2009-10 outturns, with costs associated with unique services stripped out.

An internal assessment of the suitability for payment by results.

An internal assessment of the suitability for working prisons.

Latest estimates of maintenance necessary to be undertaken in the next ten years.

Internal estimates of potential levels of inefficiency on a prison by prison basis used to estimate the potential savings which could be delivered as a result of competition.

I have placed in Table 1 a summary of all these metrics for the nine prisons competed, except the internal estimates of potential levels of inefficiency and the level of maintenance, because these data are commercial in confidence.

Table 1: Recommended candidates for prison competition

	Name	Category	Op cap	Region	Cost per place (£)	Cluster suitable for PBR	Industrial prisons	Rational for selection
a	Lindholme–including Immigration Removal Centre	Cat C	1,134	Yorkshire	18,608	Yes	Yes	[1](1) Lindholme infrastructure allows re-role as industrial prison, given good infrastructure. [1](2) The cluster allows diverse prison system where providers may bid for entire package under PBR. [1](3) New geographical area introduced. [1](4) Potential to attract competitive labour market rates.
	Moorland	Cat C	779	Yorkshire	20,221	Yes	—	[1]—
	Hatfield	Open	260	Yorkshire	20,221	Yes	—	[1]—
	Onley	Cat C	707	East Midlands	24,740	—	—	[1](1) High potential for financial saving. [1](2) Introduces competitive pressure in geographical area with Incumbent private providers.
b	Coldingley	Cat C	513	South East	27,326	Yes	—	[1](1) New geographical area introduced (South East). [1](2) Sufficient infrastructure ensures every prisoner is able to work.
	The Wolds	Cat C	395	Yorkshire	23,651	—	—	[1](1) Current contract expires January 2013. Needs to be re-competed.
c	Acklington	Cat C	946	North East	20,157	Yes	—	[1](1) New geographical area introduced (North East). [1](2) Suitable for PBR as a cluster. [1](3) Presents large savings potential including clustering.
	Castington	YOI	410	North East	35,987	Yes	—	[1]—
	Durham	Local	985	North East	23,379	Yes	—	[1]—

[1] Indicates a brace.

Notes:

1. Cost per place information is based on 2009-10 data.
2. Lindholme maintenance costs are low until final two years.
3. Castington maintenance data are forthcoming, as part of due diligence to be undertaken on whole package.

Decisions on the future size of the prison estate will be driven by prison population demand. Prisons will only close when capacity allows. We will always ensure that there are enough places for those offenders sentenced to custody by the courts, including a margin to manage fluctuations in the prison population. Decisions to reduce or make changes to prison capacity will only be taken if they do not put this ability at risk.

The decision to close an establishment will be based on the following primary factors:

an economic assessment which identifies prisons that are inefficient to operate or maintain; and

an operational assessment to consider whether the closures of prisons can be managed while continuing to maintain the safe and decent operation of the prison estate and to meet the needs of offenders.

The prison estate as a whole is kept under review and is subject to consideration through the assessment process described above.

Prisoners' Transfers

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in C category prison accommodation approved for transfer to D category prison accommodation have been waiting *(a)* more than three months, *(b)* more than six months and *(c)* more than a year to be transferred. [71589]

Mr Blunt: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would be necessary to contact every category C prison and request it to consult individual prisoner records.

Probation

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers were working for the probation service in England and Wales on 31 March 2011; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent number on 31 March 2012. [71602]

Mr Blunt: The number of probation officers employed in the probation service for England and Wales on 31 March 2011 was 6,794.50 FTE.

It is not possible to forecast probation officer staffing levels at 31 March 2012, as the responsibility for resourcing levels lies with the individual probation trusts. It is for them to take the necessary action at a local level to ensure they can deliver the required service within available resources.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed by the probation service in England and Wales on 31 December *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [71603]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of probation officers and probation service officers employed by the probation service in England and Wales on 31 December in 2008, 2009 and 2010, by FTE:

	Probation officer	*Probation services officer*
2008	7,205.49	5,796.67
2009	6,924.98	5,735.59
2010	6,976.31	5,009.48

Sentencing: EU Nationals

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many EU nationals resident in the UK were convicted of an offence resulting in a custodial sentence of more than two years in each year since 2004. [71696]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. This database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not the specific circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify from this centrally held information a defendant's nationality.

Squatting: Crime

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to make the occupation of a home by squatters a criminal offence. [71010]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: We are consulting on options for dealing with squatting, including the possibility of criminalisation. The consultation process is due to end on 5 October 2011. The full consultation can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/dealing-with-squatters.htm

We will decide which option to pursue after we have considered the consultation responses.

Victim Support Schemes: Witnesses

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on supporting victims of crime and witnesses who were party to proceedings at York *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in each year since 1997; and how many victims of crime and witnesses were offered support in each such period. [71499]

Mr Blunt: The main provider of support for victims and witnesses of crime in England and Wales is Victim Support, an independent charity which is principally funded by the Ministry of Justice. Victim Support offers support to victims and witnesses who are party to court proceedings through its Witness Service.

The following table shows the total annual funding allocated by central Government to Victim Support since 1996/97 and the amount of funding provided by Victim Support to its Witness Service in North Yorkshire from 2001-02 to 2010-11. Records of how Victim Support allocated its grant regionally prior to 2001-02 are not available.

	Total Government funding to Victim Support (£ million)	*North Yorks: Funding allocated to Crown court Witness Service*	*North Yorks: Funding allocated to magistrates court Witness Service*
1996-97	11.7	n/a	n/a
1997-98	12.7	n/a	n/a

	Total Government funding to Victim Support (£ million)	North Yorks: Funding allocated to Crown court Witness Service	North Yorks: Funding allocated to magistrates court Witness Service
1998-99	12.7	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	17.5	n/a	n/a
2000-01	18.6	n/a	n/a
2001-02	25.1	14,406	96,841
2002-03	29.3	15,457	81,055
2003-04	30	15,749	82,586
2004-05	30	17,865	105,496
2005-06	30	25,600	97,406
2006-07	30	25,600	97,406
2007-08	35.8	25,600	97,406
2008-09	37	28,586	74,354
2009-10	38.2	32,995	[1]35,641
2010-11	42.25	28,761	[1]25,472
2011-12	[2]38	[3]—	[3]—

n/a = Not available

[1] The Witness Service at York and Selby magistrates courts only.

[2] Core grant only. Does not include any additional monies allocated to Victim Support for services for people bereaved by homicide or any potential funding received through the Prisoners' Earnings Act, which comes into force on 26 September 2011.

[3] Not yet known.

The following table shows the number of victims and witnesses supported by the Witness Service at York Crown court and York magistrates court since 2009-10, when Victim Support introduced a centralised case management system. Victim Support does not hold records of the number of victims and witnesses supported by individual courts before this date.

	York Crown court	York magistrates court
2009-10	717	606
2010-11	701	396
2011-12 (to date)	236	133

CABINET OFFICE

Graduates: Unemployment

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of unemployed graduates in *(a)* Ashfield constituency, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* England. [71750]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of unemployed graduates in (a) Ashfield Constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England. (071750)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Whilst the APS does collect data on graduate unemployment, no reliable statistics can be produced for Ashfield constituency or Nottinghamshire due to small sample sizes.

The latest APS estimates available are for the period January to December 2010. Based on this survey, the number of unemployed people in England whose highest qualification was degree level or higher was 269,000. .

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Voluntary Work: Young People

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the independent evaluation of the first year of National Citizen Service will be completed; and when the outcome of the commissioning process for the second year of the National Citizen Service pilots will be announced. [71521]

Mr Hurd: The findings of the independent evaluation of the 2011 National Citizen Service pilots will be published in February 2012. The outcome of the commissioning process for the second year of National Citizen Service pilots will be announced later in September.

Young People

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number of young people under the age of 24 years who are in *(a)* training, *(b)* employment and (c) education in (i) York Central constituency, (ii) York Unitary Authority and (iii) England. [71431]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of young people under the age of 24 years who are in (a) training, (b) employment and (c) education in (i) York Central constituency, (ii) York Unitary Authority and (Hi) England (71431).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for all geographic areas smaller than regions from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number people age 16 to 24 in employment, education (attending or waiting to attend an education course); and training (taken part in job related education or training or a recognized apprenticeship). It should be noted that an individual can be included in more than one of these categories e.g. in employment and in education.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in table 1.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 to 24 in employment, education and training[1], January to December 2010

			Thousand
	Employment	*Education*	*Training*
York Central[2]	***9	***16	***n/a
York[3]	***13	***18	****n/a

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 to 24 in employment, education and training[1], January to December 2010

	Employment	*Education*	*Thousand* *Training*
England[2]	*3,097	*2,847	*613

n/a = not available

[1] It should be noted that an individual can be included in more than one of these categories, e.g. in employment and in education.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords Reform

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent progress he has made towards reform of the House of Lords; and if he will make a statement. [71575]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 488W. Further to that reply, both Houses have agreed the establishment and composition of a Joint Committee to consider the draft House of Lords Reform Bill and White Paper and to report by 29 February 2012. The Joint Committee has issued a call for written evidence. A Government Bill will then be introduced in the next Session.

HEALTH

Abortion: Counselling

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are of his Department's planned consultation on abortion counselling. [71752]

Anne Milton: Details of the consultation on abortion counselling, including the terms of reference, are currently being developed by the Department.

Ambulance Services: Manpower

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of ambulance staff employed at band *(a)* six and *(b)* seven in (i) 2007, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2011. [71483]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ambulance Services: Unemployment

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the average number of years of unemployment of ambulance staff employed at each band from two to seven. [71484]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on unemployment is not collected by the Department.

CJD: Blood

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people with asymptomatic variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and *(b)* the proportion of such people who are blood donors. [71792]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Colne Valley (Jason McCartney) on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 61W.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease disclaimer to be removed from UK blood bags and products. [71798]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Brighton, Kemptown (Simon Kirby) on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 558-59W.

Dental Health: Children

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to reduce levels of childhood tooth decay; and what recent progress has been made in reducing those levels. [71262]

Mr Simon Burns: We are committed to introducing a new dental contract based on capitation, registration and quality, with the aim of improving oral health, especially that of children. Dental contract pilots, which will test aspects of the new contract, are under way and include significant emphasis on prevention of dental disease. To reinforce the benefits of the contractual changes, we will also be piloting oral health promotion schemes which include measures to link general dental practices more closely with primary schools.

In addition, we have included rates of dental decay among five-year-old children as an outcome measure in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: proposals for a public health outcomes framework". Surveys of child dental health show that, between 1973 and 2009, the number of 12-year-old children free of tooth decay increased from 7%, to 66%, of the population in that age group. However, significant inequalities remain which we are resolved to address.

Dental Services: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* gross expenditure including dental charges and *(b)* net expenditure was in respect of NHS general dental services in North Yorkshire and York in each year since 1996-97. [71475]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 2006-07, data on primary dental care expenditure can be derived from primary care trust (PCT) financial records. These data reflect the new contract framework for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006, based on the PCT areas introduced from 1 October 2006. They take account of all relevant service costs for primary dental care services including those provided by dental providers under general dental service (GDS) or personal dental service (PDS) contracts. They are not directly comparable with the available pre-2006 data. Expenditure on primary dental care services in the North Yorkshire and York PCT since 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on primary dental care services in North Yorkshire and York PCT

£000

	Gross expenditure	*Dental charges paid by patients*	*Net expenditure*
2006-07	32,165	8,875	23,290
2007-08	32,089	8,879	23,210
2008-09	39,241	10,358	28,883
2009-10	41,774	10,728	31,046

Source:
Calculated from details of gross primary dental care expenditure, and income from dental charges, recorded in the notes to the PCT's accounts.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental care services were provided under former GDS arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practise and how much national health service work they chose to undertake.

The Information Centre for health and social care holds local-level information on the expenditure for NHS primary dental care under the former GDS and PDS arrangements. Expenditure information for the financial years 1997-98 to 2005-06 is available for the following former PCTs: Selby and York; Hambleton and Richmondshire; Craven, Harrogate and Rural District; and Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. This information is contained in the document "Expenditure on General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services in North Yorkshire, 1997-98 to 2005-06" which has been placed in the Library.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by the Health Protection Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71394]

Anne Milton: Transparency is an important commitment for the coalition Government and we are committed to providing good quality information, whilst also being mindful of any additional cost burdens. In this instance, the resources needed to review all of these transactions and redact personal and commercially sensitive information would be disproportionate.

In line with Government policy, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) does already publish information on staff remuneration, organograms, and expenditure of over £25,000 at:

www.data.gov.uk

HPA are currently reviewing the practicality and cost-effectiveness of publishing expenditure over the lower—and currently optional—£500 threshold.

Health Services: EU Nationals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 156W, on health services: foreign nationals, what the cost was of reclaiming NHS costs from each other EU state for treatment of its nationals in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; what average length of time it took each other EU state to process repayment of NHS costs for treatment of its nationals in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many outstanding claims the UK has against each other EU state for treatment of its nationals in the UK. [71271]

Anne Milton: Historically, payment of claims between member states was slow in this area—the previous European Union regulations did not provide for time limits on payments. New regulations, which came into force in May 2010, introduced an 18-month time limit on payments. A total of 53 claims have been submitted in 2010-11 under the new regulations, and payments have been made to date for 23 of these claims. By country, the time from claim to payment, or average time if more than one payment, is set out in the following table.

European economic area medical cost UK claims— Claims made in 2010-11 under Regulation (EC) No. 883/2004, time from claim to payment

Country	*Months*
Austria	5.0
Belgium	5.0
Bulgaria	9.1
Germany	4.9
Iceland	5.3
Latvia	3.4
Liechtenstein	8.0
Lithuania	4.8
Luxembourg	8.3
Poland	5.8
Slovakia	8.3
Sweden	5.5
Switzerland	6.2
Overall average	5.7

Payments have yet to be made for 30 claims. None of these claims currently exceeds the time limit for payment.

In 2010-11, departmental salary costs for staff handling UK claims and income payments totalled around £100,000. In addition, each NHS trust is likely to have an overseas visitors' manager. A small proportion of their time will be dedicated to collecting the required data required to raise a claim.

Negligence: Legal Aid Scheme

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the NHS of the Government's proposal to remove clinical negligence from within the scope of legal aid. [71811]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department believes that the potential effect on the national health service of removing clinical negligence from the scope of legal aid will be cost neutral.

NHS Walk-in Centres: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received treatment at York NHS walk-in centre in each year of its operation. [71472]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not centrally available in the format requested. Quarterly information on the number of attendances at the York NHS walk-in centre from 2003 onwards, is shown in the following table:

Quarter ending	*First attendances*	*Follow-up attendances*	*Total attendances*
2003-04			
June	6,339	4,226	10,565
September	6,395	4,180	10,575
December	5,424	3,770	9,194
March	4,916	3,971	8,887
2004-05			
June	5,389	5,022	10,411
September	5,121	4,566	9,687
December	4,446	4,135	8,581
March	3,854	3,661	7,515
2005-06			
June	3,921	4,537	8,458
September	3,602	4,401	8,003
December	7;531	-	7,531
March	2,940	1,126	4,066
2006-07			
June	6,279	246	6,525
September	5,384	686	6,070
December	5,442	231	5,673
March	5,880	190	6,070
2007-08			
June	6,353	226	6,579
September	5,620	401	6,021
December	5,157	256	5,413
March	4,731	183	4,914
2008-09			
June	5,002	241	5,243
September	5,217	277	5,494
December	4,882	261	5,143
March	4,680	284	4,964
2009-10			
June	5,012	268	5,280
September	4,697	200	4,897
December	4,399	185	4,584
March	4,194	137	4,331
2010-11			
June	4,795	158	4,953
September	5,048	167	5,215
December	4,269	137	4,406
March	4,619	151	4,770
2011-12			
June	4,999	164	5,163

Notes:
1. Data up to September 2006 were reported by Selby and York Primary Care Trust (PCT). There are data quality concerns regarding the figures reported for this period, but all figures are being provided in line with transparency principles. Up to September 2005, follow-up attendances reported by this organisation incorrectly included planned follow-up attendances, but these cannot be separately identified in the data and hence cannot be removed. For the quarter ending December 2005, the follow-up attendances were incorrectly included in the first attendance figure. For the quarter ending March 2006 onwards, planned follow-up attendances were correctly removed from the reporting.
2. Data from October 2006 to March 2011 (inclusive) were reported by North Yorkshire and York PCT.
3. Data from April 2011 was reported by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust.
Source:
Department of Health—Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency

NHS: Finance

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what effect the implementation of the Health and Social Care Bill will have on NHS baseline funding. [R] [71384]

Mr Simon Burns: Implementation of the Health and Social Care Bill will not affect the overall level of funding allocated to the national health service, as set in the 2010 spending review. The provisions of the Bill will help the NHS achieve a one-third reduction in administrative spending, saving £1.5 billion each year from 2014-15. This money will be reinvested in improving front-line services and delivering better care for patients.

Further information is given in the revised impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill, which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes in the funding allocated to the devolved Administrations he expects to result from implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [R] [71385]

Mr Simon Burns: Implementation of the Health and Social Care Bill will not affect the funding allocated to the devolved Administrations in the 2010 spending review.

Organs: Donors

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organ donations made by non-UK citizens have been used in operations performed within the NHS in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [71428]

Anne Milton: The information requested is provided in the following table.

United Kingdom solid organ transplants from deceased non-UK donors[1] to UK residents, 2010-11

	Country of donation		
Transplant type	*Republic of Ireland*	*Overseas*	*Total*
Heart	7	5	12
Liver	5	2	7
Lung	3	0	3
Double lung	2	0	2
Total	17	7	24

[1] Based on the country of donation.

Source:

NHS Blood and Transplant

Chronic Pain

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people with chronic pain in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire; what NHS services and treatment are available to people with chronic pain; and if he will make a statement. [71809]

Paul Burstow: An authoritative estimate of the prevalence of chronic pain in England is not currently available. The 2008 report by the former Chief Medical Officer reported an estimate that 7.8 million people in the United Kingdom suffer moderate to severe pain that has lasted for six months or more. A module has been included in the 2011 Health Survey for England which should in due course provide an estimate of the total number of people with chronic pain for England—though not for individual counties—using the more normal definition of pain lasting for three or more months.

All general practitioners have experience of treating patients with pain, and of referring on for specialist assessment or treatment as needed. Specialist treatments include specialist pain relief, physiotherapy, surgery, osteopathy and chiropraxis, pain self-management programmes and psychological interventions. The aim of treatment is to support patients in living with and managing their pain and there is an important role for voluntary organisations in providing peer group support and patient education.

Social Services: Training

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided for the social work bursary in each of the last three years; what proportion of the bursary was awarded in the form of *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much funding is to be provided in 2012. [71398]

Paul Burstow: The table sets out expenditure on the social work bursary. All of the funding is granted to students—the social work bursary does not contain provisions for loans. Undergraduate social work students are able to apply to the Students Loan Company for a loan in addition to a bursary.

Financial year	*£ million*
2009-10	70.3
2010-11	76.5
2011-12 forecast[1]	85

[1] The bursary is demand-led—there is no cap on the number of students or on the budget.

Budgets for 2012-13 are in the process of being set, as part of the Department of Health's annual budget setting process, and have not yet been confirmed.

York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what capital expenditure York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust incurred in each year since 1996-97. [71474]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the chair of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Alan Rose informing him of the hon. Member's enquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

York Hospitals NHS Trust

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each specialty at York Teaching Hospital NHS Trust in each year since 1996-97. [71473]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of finished consultant episodes for York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust split by main specialty from 1996-97 to 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

Main specialty code	*Main specialty description*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
	Total finished consultant episodes	91,528	87,023	78,310	80,936	81,586	75,531	69,699
100	General Surgery	11,105	10,390	9,880	10,102	9,512	8,972	8,727
101	Urology	6,823	6,601	6,155	6,434	6,244	5,326	5,345
110	Trauma and Orthopaedics	4,699	4,717	4,277	4,887	5,371	5,548	5,566

Main specialty code	*Main specialty description*	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
120	Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT	2,244	2,145	2,039	2,111	2,181	2,075	2,041
130	Ophthalmology	3,848	3,742	3,290	3,258	3,509	3,134	2,534
140	Oral Surgery	2,155	1,915	1,702	1,756	1,574	1,491	1,409
141	Restorative Dentistry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
143	Orthodontics	*	*	—	—	—	—	—
150	Neurosurgery	*	—	—	—	—	—	—
160	Plastic Surgery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
170	Cardiothoracic Surgery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
180	Accident and Emergency (A&E)	2,495	1,865	1,568	1,546	1,693	356	*
190	Anaesthetics	1,992	2,096	1,946	2,043	2,018	1,900	1,879
300	General Medicine	21,681	20,693	17,656	19,276	20,389	18,003	16,536
301	Gastroenterology	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
303	Clinical Haematology	2,075	2,148	917	1,650	1,206	991	684
315	Palliative Medicine	—	*	—	—	—	—	—
330	Dermatology	135	112	29	23	*	49	62
360	Genitourinary Medicine	—	*	—	—	—	—	*
370	Medical Oncology	753	529	459	221	225	166	165
400	Neurology	492	348	409	453	468	508	670
401	Clinical Neurophysiology	—	—	—	*	—	—	—
410	Rheumatology	1,268	887	828	753	568	233	256
420	Paediatrics	7,566	7,443	7,075	7,080	4,835	4,898	4,651
430	Geriatric Medicine	11,25 7	11,140	10,089	9,501	9,193	9,316	7,756
501	Obstetrics	4,607	4,519	4,265	4,055	—	—	—
502	Gynaecology	3,486	3,205	3,295	3,384	9,199	10,664	9,738
560	Midwife episode	2,292	2,016	1,996	1,855	2,998	—	—
600	General medical practice	—	—	—	—	—	1,687	—
610	General practice—with maternity function	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,631
620	General practice—other than maternity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
700	Learning Disability (previously Mental Health)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
710	Adult Mental Illness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
711	Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
715	Old Age Psychiatry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
800	Clinical Oncology (previously Radiotherapy)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
810	Radiology	—	*	—	*	*	—	*
822	Chemical Pathology	533	505	435	544	376	214	40
824	Histopathology	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Main specialty code	*Main specialty description*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*	*1996-97*
	Total finished consultant episodes	64,015	63,032	61,827	61,758	64,367	60,536	60,404
100	General Surgery	8,034	7,440	7,493	7,620	7,618	6,929	7,290
101	Urology	4,817	4,719	4,860	4,432	4,441	4,319	4,390
110	Trauma and Orthopaedics	5,158	4,649	4,660	4,468	4,560	4,274	4,375
120	Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT	2,050	2,301	2,193	2,166	2,134	1,833	2,211
130	Ophthalmology	2,290	2,272	2,253	2,288	2,175	1,885	1,923
140	Oral Surgery	1,354	1,223	1,244	1,368	1,351	1,268	1,215
141	Restorative Dentistry	—	339	336	333	364	397	422
143	Orthodontics	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
150	Neurosurgery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
160	Plastic Surgery	*	—	—	—	—	—	—
170	Cardiothoracic Surgery	—	—	—	—	*	—	—

Main specialty code	*Main specialty description*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*	*1996-97*
180	Accident and Emergency (A&E)	29	*		134	460	731	1,361
190	Anaesthetics	1,882	1,918	1,906	2,292	2,469	2,345	1,174
300	General Medicine	15,561	14,076	12,888	12,002	11,592	10,961	10,604
301	Gastroenterology	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
303	Clinical Haematology	667	824	938	1,391	1,310	1,043	814
315	Palliative Medicine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
330	Dermatology	75	103	127	148	170	113	132
360	Genitourinary Medicine	—	—	—	—	—	*	—
370	Medical Oncology	190	269	348	126	*	*	—
400	Neurology	520	510	429	397	404	409	441
401	Clinical Neurophysiology	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
410	Rheumatology	172	184	190	265	318	351	290
420	Paediatrics	4,124	4,158	3,908	4,168	3,741	3,321	3,291
430	Geriatric Medicine	6,160	5,448	5,216	5,021	5,254	4,561	4,311
501	Obstetrics	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
502	Gynaecology	9,310	9,463	9,312	9,306	13,257	13,471	13,572
560	Midwife episode	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
600	General medical practice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
610	General practice—with maternity function	1,581	1,359	1,648	1,737	493	125	201
620	General practice—other than maternity	—	370	411	437	480	522	519
700	Learning Disability (previously Mental Health)	—	*	35	*	38	42	76
710	Adult Mental Illness	—	614	686	694	904	874	993
711	Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	—	53	50	48	42	44	*
715	Old Age Psychiatry	—	612	616	685	663	643	677
800	Clinical Oncology (previously Radiotherapy)	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
810	Radiology	*	—	—	*	*	—	—
822	Chemical Pathology	38	80	80	190	121	72	67
824	Histopathology	—	—	—	*	—	—	—

Notes:

1. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.

2. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

3. Consultant main specialty: The specialty under which the consultant responsible for the care of the patient at that time is registered. Take care when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as 'acute'). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other patient or service information.

4. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were waiting for *(a)* outpatient appointments and *(b)* in-patient admissions at York NHS Trust on 1 April (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2010 and (v) 2011. [71480]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of patients waiting for a first out-patient appointment at York Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (FT) in 2005 and 2010 is shown in the following table:

Month ending	*Number waiting at period end*
March 2005	7,697
March 2010	1,602

Notes:

1. Out-patient waiting times are measured from general practitioner referral to first out-patient appointment.

2. Figures first published June 2004 and last published March 2010.

Source:

Department of Health QM08, monthly monitoring return

The number of patients waiting for elective admission at York Hospital NHS FT in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2010 is shown in the following table:

Month ending	*Number waiting at period end*
March 1997	6,846
March 2001	6,317
May 2005	5,211
March 2010	2,336

Note:
Data on in-patient waiting lists not centrally collected after March 2010
Source:
Department of Health KH07, Monthly monitoring return

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the average length of time patients waited for *(a)* outpatient appointments and *(b)* in-patient admissions at York NHS Trust in (i) 1997, ii) 2001, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2010 and (v) 2011. [71481]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

The median out-patient waiting times, in weeks, for York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (FT) in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2010 are shown in the following tables:

Out-patients seen during quarter ending	*Median wait (weeks)*
March 1997	5.7
March 2001	7.7
March 2005	6.3

Notes:
1. The figures show the median time waited for patients having a first consultant-led out-patient appointment in the period stated.
2. Out-patient waiting times are measured from general practitioner (GP) referral to first out-patient appointment.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient-level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
4. Figures last published September 2007.
Source:
Department of Health QM08, monthly monitoring return

Out-patients still waiting at month ending	*Median wait (weeks)*
March 2005	5.4
March 2010	3.0

Notes:
1. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for first consultant-led out-patient appointment at the end of the period stated.
2. Out-patient waiting times are measured from GP referral to first out-patient appointment.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient-level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
4. Figures last published March 2010.
Source:
Department of Health QM08, monthly monitoring return

The median waiting times, in weeks, for elective admission at York Teaching Hospital NHS FT in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2010 is shown in the following table:

Month ending	*Median wait (weeks)*
March 1997	12.0
March 2001	15.7
March 2005	10.2
March 2010	3.5

Notes:
1. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
2. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient-level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
3. Data on in-patient waiting lists not collected after March 2010.
Source:
Department of Health KH07, Monthly monitoring return

The median Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting times, in weeks, for York Teaching Hospital NHS FT in 2010 and 2011 is shown in the following tables.

Admitted (adjusted) pathways completed during month:

Period	*Median waiting time (in weeks)*
March 2010	8.1
March 2011	7.8

Notes:
1. The figures show the median time for patients completing a pathway in the period stated.
2. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient-level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
Source:
RTT monitoring

Non-admitted pathways completed during month:

Period	*Median waiting time (in weeks)*
March 2010	3.1
March 2011	3.5

Notes:
1. The figures show the median time for patients completing a pathway in the period stated.
2. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient-level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
Source:
RTT monitoring

NHS Manpower: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many staff were employed at York Hospital NHS Trust by main staff group as at 30 September *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* in the latest year for which figures are available; [71476]

(2) how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* hospital doctors, *(c)* community nurses and *(d)* hospital nurses were employed in NHS establishments and GP surgeries in the City of York in (i) 1997, (ii) 2010 and (iii) the latest date for which figures are available. [71479]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the numbers of doctors, by main staff groups, employed by York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (FT) and North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) on 30 September 1997, 2008 and 2010 and 30 May 2011 is shown in the following table:

Headcount

	1997	*2008*	*2010*[1]	*May 2011*[2]
Total specified organisations	327	1,196	1,185	596
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	[3]—	578	587	[4]—
Medical and dental workforce total	327	618	598	596
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	107	220	260	261
Registrars	44	173	162	170
Other doctors in training and equivalents	101	55	67	63
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants (non-dental specialties)[5]	56	96	27	15
Other medical and dental staff	19	74	83	88
York Teaching Hospital NHS FT	327	400	442	448
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Medical and dental workforce total	327	400	442	448
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	107	165	200	202
Registrars	44	135	123	127
Other doctors in training and equivalents	101	55	66	63
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants (non-dental specialties)[5]	56	7	4	4
Other medical and dental staff	19	38	49	52
North Yorkshire and York PCT	[3]—	796	744	149
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	[3]—	578	587	[4]—
Medical and dental workforce total	[3]—	218	157	149
Consultants (including Directors of public health)	[3]—	55	60	59
Registrars	[3]—	38	39	43
Other doctors in training and equivalents	[3]—	0	1	0
Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants (non-dental specialties)[5]	[3]—	89	23	11
Other medical and dental staff	[3]—	36	34	36

[1] Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the "NHS Workforce: Summary of staff in the NHS: Results from September 2010 Census" publication, which has already been placed in the Library.

[2] Monthly data: As from 21 July 2010, the Information Centre for health and social care has published experimental, provisional monthly NHS workforce data. As expected with provisional, experimental statistics, some figures may be revised from month to month as issues are uncovered and resolved. The monthly workforce data are not directly comparable with the annual workforce census; they only include those staff on the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) (i.e. they do not include primary care staff or bank staff), they also include locum doctors (not counted in the annual census). There are also new methods of presenting data (headcount methodology is different and there is now a role count). This information is available from September 2009 onwards in "Monthly NHS Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) Workforce Statistics in England—May 2011, Provisional, Experimental Statistics", which has been placed in the Library. Monthly locum data is excluded from this table.

[3] Not applicable. North Yorkshire and York PCT was not formed until 2006.

[4] Not available. Monthly data are not available for GP statistics.

[5] In order to avoid double counting, hospital practitioners and clinical assistants are excluded from the all doctors totals, as they are predominantly GPs that work part time in hospitals (applies to headcount data only).

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care—General and Personal Medical Services Statistics, Medical and Dental Workforce Census, and Monthly Provisional Statistics.

Information on the numbers of non-medical staff, by main staff groups, employed by York Teaching Hospital NHS FT and North Yorkshire and York PCT on 30 September 1997, 2008 and 2010 and 30 May 2011 is shown in the following table:

Headcount

	1997	*2008*	*2010*[1]	*May 2011*[2]
Total specified organisations	4,644	8,185	8,740	8,352
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,434	4,036	4,276	4,078
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,928	2,855	2,979	2,772
Community Nursing areas of work[3]	272	977	1,144	1,144
Non-community areas of work[3]	1,656	1,878	1,849	1,645
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (ST&T)	506	1,181	1,302	1,309
Support to clinical staff	1,424	2,361	2,534	2,400
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,263	1,975	2,142	2,023
Support to ST&T staff	161	386	397	383
NHS infrastructure support	779	1,776	1,949	1,874
Central functions	217	826	1,050	974

Headcount

	1997	2008	2010[1]	May 2011[2]
Hotel, property and estates	462	740	729	734
Managers and senior managers	100	210	171	169
Other staff or those with unknown classification	7	12	12	38
York Teaching Hospital NHS FT	4,644	4,020	4,719	4,309
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,434	1,843	1,991	1,977
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,928	1,290	1,359	1,308
Community Nursing areas of work[3]	272	43	47	60
Non-community areas of work[3]	1,656	1,247	1,313	1,279
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (ST&T)	506	553	632	669
Support to clinical staff	1,424	1,144	1,311	1,303
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,263	864	990	1,005
Support to ST&T staff	161	280	324	301
NHS infrastructure support	779	1,033	987	1,019
Central functions	217	365	378	388
Hotel, property and estates	462	594	539	549
Managers and senior managers	100	74	70	83
Other staff or those with unknown classification	7	0	0	20
North Yorkshire and York PCT		4,165	4,476	4,063
Professionally qualified clinical staff	[4]—	2,193	2,291	2,110
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	[4]—	1,565	1,624	1,470
Community Nursing areas of work[3]	[4]—	934	1,097	1,085
Non-community areas of work[3]	[4]—	631	537	411
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (ST&T)	[4]—	628	672	643
Support to clinical staff	[4]—	1,217	1,225	1,099
Support to doctors and nursing staff	[4]—	1,111	1,153	1,019
Support to ST&T staff	[4]—	106	74	82
NHS infrastructure support	[4]—	743	966	858
Central functions	[4]—	461	672	586
Hotel, property and estates	[4]—	146	194	188
Managers and senior managers	[4]—	136	101	86
Other staff or those with unknown classification	[4]—	12	12	18

[1] Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the "NHS Workforce: Summary of staff in the NHS: Results from September 2010 Census" publication, has been placed in the Library.

[2] Monthly data: As from 21 July 2010, the Information Centre for health and social care has published experimental, provisional monthly NHS workforce data. As expected with provisional, experimental statistics, some figures may be revised from month to month as issues are uncovered and resolved. The monthly workforce data are not directly comparable with the annual workforce census; they only include those staff on the Electronic Staff Record (ESR) (i.e. they do not include Primary care staff or Bank staff), they also include locum doctors (not counted in the annual census). There are also new methods of presenting data (headcount methodology is different and there is now a role count). This information is available from September 2009 onwards in "Monthly NHS Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) Workforce Statistics in England—May 2011, Provisional, Experimental Statistics", which has been placed in the Library.

[3] It is impossible to accurately split nursing staff census data between those who work in the community and those who are hospital based. These figures are based on those areas of work who are broadly assumed to be employed in community or hospital settings. Community nursing staff is an aggregate of the community services, community psychiatry, community learning disabilities and school nursing areas of work. Non-community areas of work is an aggregate of the acute, elderly and general care, education services, maternity services, other learning disabilities, other psychiatry and paediatric nursing areas of work.

[4] Not applicable. North Yorkshire and York PCT was not formed until 2006.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care—Monthly Provisional Statistics and Non-Medical Workforce Census.

NHS Manpower: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other doctors, *(c)* nurses and midwives and *(d)* other health professionals were employed at York hospital in 1997, excluding posts subsequently transferred to York Primary Care Trust; and how many were employed in each such category at the most recent date for which figures are available; [71477]

(2) how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by York NHS Trust, excluding those transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust, in each year since 1996-97. [71478]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not centrally held by the Department. The hon. Member may wish to approach the chief executive of the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust direct, which may hold some relevant information.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Caribbean: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist those in *(a)* developing countries and *(b)* British Overseas Territories who have been affected by Hurricane Irene. [71633]

Mr Duncan: My Department monitored the impact of Hurricane Irene on both the Overseas Territories (OTs) and the independent Caribbean. We activated our contingency plans for the region and the Overseas Territories. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Wave Ruler was deployed to the Turks and Caicos Islands to provide post-impact reconnaissance and transport of emergency supplies. A DFID disaster adviser was pre-positioned to Jamaica. We were also in contact with the regional emergency response organisation and international emergency response agencies.

We received no requests for assistance from any of the countries or territories affected by Hurricane Irene.

Horn of Africa: Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his foreign counterparts on the provision of aid to the Horn of Africa. [71744]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Over the summer months I have spoken with a large number of my foreign counterparts to galvanise support on the provision of aid to the Horn of Africa, including:

Germany's Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development, Dirk Niebel; Ben Knapen, the Development Minister of the Netherlands; Henri de Raincourt, France's Development Minister; Franco Frattini, Italy's Foreign Minister and latterly Dr. Raj Shah of the United States Agency for International Development.

At the Tidewater conference in July I also addressed Development Ministers and officials—Denmark's State Secretary for development policy Ib Petersen, European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, Deputy Director General and Minister of Foreign affairs for France George Serre, Minister of the Environment and International Development of Norway Erik Solheim, Japanese President Sadako Ogata, President of Institute for Liberty and Democracy Hernando de Soto, Deputy Administrator of USAID Donald Steinberg, Secretary-General of UNCTAD Panitchpakdi Supachai, Chair of Development Assistance Committee France Brian Atwood, Director-General of Ausaid Australia Peter Baxter, President of CIDA Canada Margaret Briggs, Director General of International Co-operation the Netherlands Yoka Brandt, Vice Minister for Development Policy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Korea, Tae-Yul Cho, Director General Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation Switzerland Martin Dahinden, Associate Administrator UNDP Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary-General OECD Angel Gurria, State Secretary for International Development Co-operation Sweden Anna Helquist, Political Director Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway Hege Hertzberg, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Eco-Co-operation Development Germany Gudrun Kopp, Executive Director UNICEF Anthony Lake, Managing Director of Public Policy Bill Gates Foundation Geoff Lamb and Managing Director of World Bank Mahmoud Mohieldin, Kenyan Prime Minister Razla Odinga and Foreign Minister George Saitotz, Somali Government, senior officials from the United Nations (UN) including Baroness Amos of the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Josette Sheeran of the World Food Programme, Antonio Guterres the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Tony Lake of the UN Children's Fund.

The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also had discussions with their counterparts from a range of countries on the Horn.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the G20 in November 2011 and international action in respect of the Horn of Africa. [71745]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In preparation for the G20 Finance and Development Ministers meeting on 23 September, we will be supporting a number of proposals put forward under the French presidency of the G20 which aim to manage and mitigate the effect on the poor of high and volatile food prices. International action on the crisis affecting the Horn of Africa is not the focus of the discussion at the G20 and I have not had any detailed discussion with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne).

Human Rights

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the human rights situation of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia; what steps he is taking to encourage an improvement in that situation; and what financial support his Department is providing to that government. [71373]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Reports include those by the United Nations Human Rights Council independent expert (September 2010) and Human Rights Watch (August 2011). Both provide evidence that people in areas controlled by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) have been subjected to violations of their human rights. During my recent visit to Mogadishu, I urged the TFG to protect civilians and meet the needs of internally displaced persons.

The UK does not provide direct support to the TFG. Through the United Nations, we work to strengthen security and justice, including providing the only source of legal aid in Mogadishu. Future support to the TFG would be conditional on financial transparency and clear accountability agreements to ensure they comply with international human rights and humanitarian law.

Internally Displaced People

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the establishment of internally displaced peoples' camps inside Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [71376]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: UK Government policy is to get humanitarian assistance to people as close to their homes as possible so that they do not feel the need to leave their homes. Some Somalis choose to migrate internally, for example to seek support from family members in Mogadishu. I support United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugee's (UNHCR) work with the Somali authorities to get assistance to voluntary camps across Somalia.

Vulnerable Somalis also have a right to flee across international borders to seek asylum but I agree with the UNHCR position that establishing new internally displaced people's camps, especially near border areas, is not the answer to prevent international refugee flows. They are likely to be sited in insecure areas, with difficult access for agencies, and health and security risks for the population which may be even greater than where they have fled from.

Refugees

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the Liboi reception centre for refugees arriving in Kenya from Somalia; what assistance his Department has provided to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for that facility; and what barriers he has identified to the opening of the centre. [71375]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I raised the issue with the Kenyan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister during my visit to Kenya in July this year. In addition, Department for International Development (DFID) receives regular written and verbal reports and officials are in close contact with the Government of Kenya (GoK) on the Liboi reception centre. The GoK and UNHCR have reached an agreement on opening the Liboi reception centre. Once building has started, UNHCR estimates that there will be sufficient infrastructure in place to receive refugees within two weeks, but that full completion will take an additional two months.

These plans are however, subject to final authorisation from the GoK, who have valid security concerns over the management of its border with Somalia, and to the capacity of GoK, UNHCR and other organisations involved to set up and staff a new facility quickly. DFID provides some unearmarked funding to UNHCR's Kenya operation for them to allocate according to emerging priority gaps, including Liboi.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the conflict in Somalia. [71746]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), and I discussed the conflict in Somalia in July 2011 at the National Security Council. Our discussions included the ongoing peacekeeping efforts led by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and how the UK can contribute to the various Somali and international efforts to restore peace and stability in Somalia.

UN Central Emergency Response Fund

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with other governments on the five-year evaluation of the Central Emergency Response Fund. [71747]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: DFID officials have participated in the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) evaluation as members of the Evaluation's Steering and Advisory Groups. Within these groups DFID officials have worked closely with other donor member groups from Norway, Sweden, Ireland, the Netherlands and Canada to ensure a robust evaluation of the mechanism.

A report based on the findings from the evaluation will be presented to member states in December 2011.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67160]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010 I have met regularly with hon. Members from a range of political parties.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 September 2011

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Conduct

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what questions the Cabinet Secretary asked of the Prime Minister in investigating the hon. Member for Bassetlaw's complaint of a potential breach of the Ministerial Code; when these discussions took place; and what was the medium of communication used; [68995]

(2) how long the Cabinet Secretary spent on his investigations into the hon. Member for Bassetlaw's complaint of a potential breach of the Ministerial Code by the Prime Minister; and whom the Cabinet Secretary interviewed in the course of his investigation. [68997]

The Prime Minister: These are matters for the Cabinet Secretary who I understand has written to the hon. Member on this issue.

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister who is responsible under the Ministerial Code for investigating any complaints of a breach of the code by the Prime Minister; and with whom he has confirmed his understanding of the interpretation of the Code. [68996]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial Code makes clear that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for their decisions and actions.

SCOTLAND

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions his Department has had with the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment; and if he will make a statement. [71576]

David Mundell: I am in regular contact with the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment and with my ministerial colleagues in DEFRA on a range of issues of importance to Scotland. Last week I discussed a range of issues with the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment including recent developments on EU reform of the common agricultural policy and the fisheries concordat.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the *(a)* public purse and *(b)* private sector of implementing Government policies on tackling climate change. [71568]

Gregory Barker: Energy and climate change policies are funded by a mixture of levies and general taxation. Levy-funded policies (such as the renewables obligation (RO), feed-in tariffs (FITs) and warm home discount (WHD)) place the obligation of financing the policies onto energy companies which is then passed onto the consumer. Estimates of how these levies impact the public finances were published in Budget 2011, see Tables C.3 and C.4 of:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_complete.pdf

To help ensure that these policies achieve their objectives cost effectively and affordably the Government have introduced a framework to control levy funded spending by DECC. This framework forms part of the Government's public spending framework which Treasury has responsibility for.

Spending through the renewable heat incentive (RHI) is funded from general taxation. The agreed limits for the RHI over the spending review period are set out in the following table:

	Renewable heat incentive (£ million)
2011-12	56
2012-13	133
2013-14	251
2014-15	424

Source:
DECC
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/Energy%20mix/Renewable%20energy/1691-qa-info-levy-funded-spending.pdf

The main other policies funded through general taxation are the Green Investment Bank which will have initial capitalisation of £3 billion and begin operation in 2012-13 which it is anticipated could leverage around a further £15 billion from the private sector, and the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration programme. At spending review 2010, the Government committed up to £1 billion for the capital investment for the first CCS demonstration project. At Budget 2011, the Government also confirmed that they would fund their commitments to CCS demonstrations from general taxation.

DECC published an assessment of the impact of climate change and energy polices on energy prices and bills for households and non-domestic consumers alongside the July 2010 Annual Energy Statement available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/price_bill_imp/pricebillimp.aspx

In July 2011 DECC published provisional analysis on the impacts of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills faced by large energy intensive users available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/economics-social-research/2350-pro-ests-of-impacts-energy-and-prices.pdf

An updated assessment of the impact of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills for households and businesses and bills will be published alongside the Annual Energy Statement in the autumn reflecting policy developments over the last year.

National Planning Policy Framework

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. [71891]

Charles Hendry: Four officials spent part of their time working with DCLG officials on this draft.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the practitioners' advisory group. [71896]

Charles Hendry: None, though two officials met the practitioners advisory group at the group's request.

Electricity Generation

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total cost to the public purse is of all forms of subsidy for the development, construction and installation of each low carbon method of electricity generation in the last year for which figures are available. [71150]

Charles Hendry: The cost to the public purse for the development, construction and installation of low carbon electricity generation using the latest available figures are given in the following tables. These include the latest available figures for financial incentives provided by the Government to increase the deployment of renewable energy capacity, as well as research and development grants provided to developers of low carbon electricity generation and capital grants awarded to offshore wind, wave and tidal energy developers.

Financial incentives for renewable energy capacity

Name of incentive	*Year*	*Amount (£)*
The renewables obligation[1]	2009-10[2]	1.1 billion
Feed-in tariffs[3]	2010-11	10.7 million

Research and development grants for renewable energy technologies in 2009-10[4]

Technology	*Amount (£ million)*
Solar	15.3
Wind	9.2
Marine,	7.5
Biofuels	35.5
Geothermal	4.1
Hydro	0
Unallocated	18.5
Total	90.1

Research and development grants for anaerobic digestion technology in 201-11

	£ million
AD Demonstration Programme	[5]1.3

Capital grants provided in 2010-11

	£ million
Offshore wind	10.6
Wave and tidal	20.25
Total	30.85

Research and development grants for nuclear related technologies in 2009-10[6]

Technology	*Amount (£ million)*
Fission[7]	16.1
Fusion[8]	18.9
Total	35

[1] The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main financial incentive for large scale renewable electricity, including wind power.

[2] Figures for 2010-11 will be available following publication of Ofgem's annual report for the 2010-11 obligation year by April 2012.

[3] Feed-in tariffs incentivise the deployment of small-scale low carbon electricity generation. They support solar photovoltaic, hydro, anaerobic digestion and wind projects up to 5 MW and microCHP installations of up to 2 kW.

[4] Latest available figures.

[5] Approximately two-thirds of this (£0.9 million) would have been used for electricity generation.

[6] Latest available figures.

[7] This includes funding by the Research Councils and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

[8] Research Councils funding.

As the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change made clear in his written statement to the House on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 42-46WS, although there would be continuing support for activities such as research and development, there will be no public subsidy for new nuclear power stations.

Research and development grants for carbon abatement technologies including carbon capture and storage in 2010-11

£3.1 million was spent by DECC to support a range of R&D projects, including those funded by the Technology Strategy Board. There has been additional expenditure under the CCS demonstration programme which remains commercially confidential until the procurement has been completed.

Feed-in Tariffs: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in *(a)* East Lancashire and *(b)* Pendle constituency who have participated in the (i) feed-in tariff and (ii) renewable heat incentive since his appointment. [71775]

Charles Hendry: Information about the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme from the FITs central register can be obtained only at the local authority level. Hence no information is available for East Lancashire as a whole. However, live data for all local authorities (including those in East Lancashire) is available on the Ofgem website and can be accessed at:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Default.aspx

The FITs quarterly statistics received by DECC from Ofgem are broken down by constituency, and showed at the end of June 2011 that there were 49 schemes in Pendle constituency, all at the domestic scale. In addition, live data for Pendle local authority on 13 September 2011 showed that there were 76 installations on that date, of which 74 were at domestic scale.

There have been no participants in the renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme as it is not yet open for applications. Subject to state aid approval, the Government intends that the RHI will open for applications from the non-domestic sector on 30 September 2011.

Microgeneration Certification Scheme

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many companies are registered as qualified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the UK. [71707]

Gregory Barker: The numbers of microgeneration installer companies registered as MCS certificated are:

(a) 124 in Wales

(b) 3,269 in the UK

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure that smart meters will not expose customers to prolonged radio frequency microwave radiation. [71743]

Charles Hendry: As yet communications technology solutions have not been selected for the smart metering system. Both wired and wireless technologies exist that could be used and, for practical and technical reasons, both wireless and wired solutions will need to be utilised by installers during the roll out, depending on local circumstances.

Where wireless technologies are used in deploying smart meters they will have to comply with relevant regulations, best practice and international standards as set out by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). In 2009 the ICNIRP published an evidence review, and updated and reconfirmed its guidance. We are currently consulting on draft technical specifications for the smart metering equipment and on proposals to introduce licence conditions that will require suppliers to install smart metering equipment that meets the relevant ICNIRP guidance.

National Infrastructure Plan

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish his Department's submission to the National Infrastructure Plan. [71781]

Charles Hendry: The second National Infrastructure Plan, due for publication in the autumn, will provide the Government's overall strategic assessment of the challenges facing the country's infrastructure and the action the government is taking to respond, across sectors including energy. Individual departmental contributions to the plan will not be published separately.

Radioactive Materials

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered the potential effects on *(a)* sector skills and employment and *(b)* the future re-use of the UK's plutonium stockpile as MOX fuel of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's proposed closure of Sellafield MOX plant. [71782]

Charles Hendry: The decision to close the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP) was an operational and commercial matter for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The Government were kept fully informed and as it was clear that closure was the only commercially viable option they endorsed the decision on value for money grounds.

While the closure of SMP is regrettable, it should not detract from the fact that the renaissance of nuclear in the UK opens up new opportunities for Sellafield. The site continues to be the home to much of our nuclear skills, our nuclear expertise and many of our key facilities. It has also been identified as one of eight sites for a new nuclear power station.

The NDA's decision on SMP has no connection with the separate consideration by the Government of the policy options for dealing with the UK's plutonium stockpile. We consulted earlier this year on our preliminary view that the best prospect of delivering a long-term solution for plutonium management will be by reusing the plutonium to make mixed oxide fuel. As set out in the consultation document SMP was never expected to be used for dealing with the UK stockpile of plutonium.

We are currently reviewing the results of that consultation and expect to publish the outcome and next steps later this autumn. If, following the consultation, the Government were to decide to reuse plutonium as MOX fuel, in due course we would need to consider building a new MOX fabrication plant. Any such plant would need to take fully into account the lessons from SMP and from other MOX plants around the world.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients there are of council tax benefit in each local authority area in England. [69339]

Steve Webb: A copy of the available information on CTB recipients by local authority has been placed in the Library.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients of council tax benefit of working age *(a)* were in employment, *(b)* were not in employment and *(c)* had a registered disability in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area on the most recent date for which figures are available. [69348]

Steve Webb: The information as requested is not available. A copy of the available information on CTB recipients has been placed in the Library.

A breakdown of CTB recipients by employment status and disabled status is only available for CTB recipients who are not also on a passported benefit (income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based), employment and support allowance (income based), or pension credit (guaranteed credit). Non-passported recipients represent around one third of all CTB claimants.

The information provided contains numbers of CTB recipients rather than proportions. As employment status and disabled status can only be obtained for non passported recipients, presenting these numbers as proportions of the total CTB caseload would be misleading as the employment status and disabled status may well be different between the passported and non passported groups.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many rents for *(a)* shared, *(b)* one bedroom, *(c)* two bedroom, *(d)* three bedroom and *(e)* four bedroom accommodation were assessed as being at or below the 30th percentile in each broad rental market area in (i) June 2010 and (ii) June 2011; [71227]

(2) how many rents for *(a)* shared, *(b)* one bedroom, *(c)* two bedroom, *(d)* three bedroom and *(e)* four bedroom accommodation were assessed as being at or below the 30th percentile in each local authority area in Great Britain in (i) June 2010 and (ii) June 2011. [71228]

Steve Webb: The information is not available: the question refers to data on all private rented sector (PRS) rents which come from market evidence data (MED) collected by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and rent services in Scotland and Wales. The data consider a relatively small selection of properties and are used to generate local housing allowance rates for each broad rental market area (BRMA). However, it is not a comprehensive source of data on the number of rents that are below the 30th percentile of the local rent distribution.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were receiving Housing Benefit Transitional Protection in each local authority area in Great Britain in June 2011. [71231]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Social Fund: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(d)* England have received a (i) grant and (ii) loan from the Social Fund in each of the last five years. [71457]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table:

Table 1: Number of initial social fund loans and grants awards in Yorkshire and Humber and England

	Yorkshire and the Humber		*England*	
	Community care grants	*Loans*	*Community care grants*	*Loans*
2006-07	22,700	210,700	215,900	1,858,900
2007-08	22,300	214,400	196,800	2,040,400
2008-09	23,400	237,000	200,000	2,479,300
2009-10	25,800	313,900	209,800	3,139,400
2010-11	25,700	340,900	205,100	3,084,400

Notes:

1. We are unable to provide the localised data provided for the years specified for technical reasons.
2. The information provided is based on Government Office Region for the years requested however from March 2011 due to the closure of Government Offices for the Regions closing they are referred to as Regions.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
4. The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
5. If an applicant receives an initial award and this award is increased on first review in the same month as the initial award was made, then the Policy, Budget and Management Information System (PBMIS) does not count the initial award and the review award separately, but counts one award on the one application. However, if a first review award is made in a later month than the initial award, then PBMIS counts two awards on the one application. Similarly, if an initial or first review award is increased by the Independent Review Service, then all awards made in the same month on one application count as one award. However, if an initial award or any review award(s) on one application are made in different months, then PBMIS will count one award for each month in which an initial or review award was made. Because of this counting method, only the numbers of initial awards have been given.
6. Figures are for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people received more than one initial award.)

Social Security Benefits: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in City of York Council area have moved off benefits and into work in the last 12 months. [71455]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations her Department has received opposing a cull of badgers; and if she will make a statement. [71952]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 975W.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 771W, on badgers, whether the costs to the public purse of the proposed cull referred to are per year or in respect of the total cost of the pilot. [72002]

Mr Paice: My previous answer of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 771W, refers to costs for each area over a 10 year period, rather than costs per year.

Deerstalking

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of people who have attained deerstalking level 1 proficiency in each region. [70658]

Richard Benyon: None. There is no requirement for the awarding body (Deer Management Qualifications Ltd), deer stalkers or course providers to report the award of level 1 deer stalking certificates to DEFRA. However, latest published statistics on the awarding body's website confirm that 16,189 people have completed the assessment and been awarded the certificate.

Fish: Catering

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what types of fish are served in her Department's canteens and associated facilities. [71591]

Mr Paice: Since 16 May 2011, DEFRA's restaurant and catering services have been contracted to Eurest Services, which has served the following fish in DEFRA's restaurants and canteens:

Plaice
Salmon
Coley
Cod
Haddock
Pangasius
Mackerel
Peeled prawns
Tinned tuna

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will make an assessment of the compatibility of European Commission proposals on tradable fishing quotas with EU treaty provisions on property rights; [71510]

(2) if she will make an assessment of the effects of implementing European Commission proposals for tradable fishing quotas on coastal fishing communities. [71511]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister I will carry out an assessment of all elements of the European Commission's proposals on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. This will include the compatibility of the EU proposals for tradable fishing concessions with EU Treaty provisions on property rights and the potential impacts on coastal fishing communities.

Fishing Vessels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishing vessels on the British Register were required to comply with the economic link requirement as part of the terms for entry onto the Register in the latest period for which figures are available. [71735]

Richard Benyon: All UK fishing vessels landing more than two tonnes of quota stocks in any one year must comply with the economic link by:

(a) landing 50% of their catch into the UK;

(b) employing crew at least 50% of whom are resident in UK coastal areas;

(c) spending at least 50% of their operating expenditure on goods and services in the UK; or

(d) other equivalent means, including combinations of the above.

The number of vessels required to meet the above criteria is not recorded centrally. An exercise is carried out each year by UK fisheries administrations to assess whether or not vessels meet the economic link criteria through the level of their landings. Those that do not are then contacted to identify which of the other possible criteria they meet.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK fixed quota allocation is held by dummy vessels for each UK fish producer organisation. [71736]

Richard Benyon: As at 1 January 2011, approximately 20% of UK fixed quota allocation units were held on fish producer organisations' (FPO) dummy licences. The following table shows the breakdown for each FPO.

Fish producer organisation	*Percentage*
Aberdeen FPO	1.2
Anglo Northern Irish FPO Ltd	0.4
Anglo Scottish FPO Ltd	2.2
Cornish FPO Ltd	1.0
Eastern England FPO Ltd	0.8
Fife FPO Ltd	0.1
Fleetwood FPO Ltd	0.6
The FPO Ltd	0.0
Interfish	0.1
Klondyke	0.0
Lowestoft FPO Ltd	0.0
Lunar Group	0.0
Isle of Man Non-Sector	0.0
North Atlantic FPO Ltd	0.0
North East of Scotland FO Ltd	0.8
North Sea FPO Ltd	0.5
Northern Ireland FPO Ltd	1.7
Northern Producers Organisation Ltd	0.5
Orkney FPO Ltd	0.2
Scottish FPO Ltd	5.9
Shetland FPO Ltd	3.1
South Western FPO Ltd	0.4
Wales and West Coast FPO Ltd	0.0
West of Scotland FPO Ltd	0.4
All fish producer organisations	19.9

Forestry Commission: Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry of each individual transaction undertaken by the Forestry Commission using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71702]

Mr Paice: Details of Government Procurement Card transactions by the Forestry Commission in England for 2008-09 and 2009-10 have been placed in the Library of the House. This includes date of transaction, amount, merchant details and category description. Level 3 or enhanced transaction details, which is the detailed transaction information passed from participating suppliers to the card issuer, are not held by the Forestry Commission.

Game: Birds

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will bring forward proposals to ban the mass production of birds for sport shooting; and if she will make a statement; [71951]

(2) what information her Department holds on the number of *(a)* pheasants and *(b)* partridges produced for sport shooting in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [71953]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 12 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 971-72W.

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to improve the animal welfare of farmed animals since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [71950]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 969-70W.

Recycling

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of waste collected in City of York was recycled in each year since 2003-04; what funding her Department provided to the City of York council to increase recycling rates in each year in that period; and what recent steps her Department has taken to encourage local authorities to increase waste recycling rates. [71487]

Richard Benyon: The proportion of household waste collected in the City of York which was recycled from 2003-04 to 2009-10 is as follows:

	Percentage
2003-04	15.43
2004-05	17.77
2005-06	24.44
2006-07	39.93
2007-08	43.37
2008-09	45.13
2009-10	43.26

The proportion of all waste collected by City of York council (household and non-household) which was recycled over the same period is as follows:

	Percentage
2003-04	19.01
2004-05	22.09
2005-06	25.71
2006-07	39.36
2007-08	42.28
2008-09	43.69
2009-10	41.83

DEFRA does not hold details of commercial and industrial waste at local authority level.

From 2008-09 to 2010-11, the Department provided funding to upper tier local authorities outside London through the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant to support investment in infrastructure, such as recycling and composting facilities, to boost recycling rates. During this time DEFRA provided the following amounts to the City of York council:

	£
2008-09	359,837.71
2009-10	361,122.65
2010-11	133,485.73

DEFRA is encouraging local authorities to sign up to the new Recycling and Waste Services Commitment to improve services to residences. We have removed national targets to allow local authorities greater freedom to make local decisions, and are working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme and Improvement and Efficiency South East (one of nine regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships) to provide technical and procurement advice to local authorities.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Coroners and Justice Act 2009: Prosecutions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Attorney-General how many people have been charged with offences under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 for holding someone in slavery or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour. [71996]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) records show that six prosecutions have been brought since the introduction, in April 2010, of the offence of holding someone in slavery, or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour.

The CPS's records indicate the volume of offences, not defendants, prosecuted by the CPS. These data are not held by defendant or by outcomes.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has met *(a)* representatives of the drinks industry, *(b)* alcohol treatment providers and *(c)* alcohol-related charities since his appointment. [71578]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not met with representatives of the drinks industry or alcohol treatment providers since his appointment.

The Secretary of State has met with an alcohol related charity on one occasion since his appointment.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 917W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, for what reasons his Department uses the 2005 General Household Survey as the basis for information on alcohol consumption among adults rather than the General Lifestyle Survey 2009. [71740]

Anne Milton: The 2005 General Household Survey was the most current information available at the time the research into alcohol attributable fractions was undertaken by the North West Public Health Observatory.

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 917W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, what plans he has to update estimates of the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions using the latest available data on alcohol consumption. [71741]

Anne Milton: The North West Public Health Observatory periodically reviews the value of updating the methodology used to calculate alcohol-related hospital admissions using the latest evidence on harms from alcohol. Any changes can then be applied retrospectively to ensure comparability.

Cancer: Surgery

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of robotic radiosurgery; and what contribution he expects robotic radiosurgery to make to the Government's strategy for cancer treatment in the NHS. [71599]

Paul Burstow: The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group (NRIG) report, 'Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Guidelines for Commissioners, Providers and Clinicians in England 2011' made a comprehensive assessment of the role and opportunities for SBRT in cancer treatment. An assessment of the technology available for the delivery of Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT), including robotic systems, was also made in the report. A copy of the NRIG report has been placed in the Library.

The report brought together all the existing evidence on SBRT and concluded that a small number of patients would benefit from this treatment. There are at least 20 radiotherapy centres across the country with the capability of delivering this treatment.

Ensuring that all cancer patients receive the appropriate treatment delivered to a high standard is critical to improving cancer outcomes. It is now for the local national health service to take account of this guidance when considering whether to commission SBRT for a particular indication. As with all clinical decisions, these should be made locally on a case-by-case basis taking into account the individual circumstances of each patient.

Care Homes: Inspections

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the smallest care home is which was inspected by the Care Quality Commission in the last three years. [71992]

Paul Burstow: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The following tables show the name of each one bed care home, as the CQC has recorded it, which has been inspected or reviewed by the CQC and its predecessor the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) over the last three years, and the region it is located in.

Inspections prior to 1 October 2010 were carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000. Reviews carried out after this date were carried out under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

Completed reviews of compliance carried out by the CQC under the Health and Social Care Act 2008[1]

Name	*Region*
Olive House	London
Time to Care	North East
Flat 1	South East
Mrs Sarah Louise Vooght—Hill Park Road Residential Care Home	South West
63 West Park Road	South West
The Butts	West Midlands
Briar Hall—1 Ratcliffe Road	West Midlands
Margaret Jean Holton—5 Beacon Gardens	West Midlands

[1] October 2010 to 1 September 2011.

Random or key inspections carried out by the CQC under the Care Standards Act 2000[1]

Name	*Region*
Ethel Road (7)	South East
16 Hill Park Road	South West
5 Beacon Gardens	West Midlands
18 Leafdown Close	West Midlands
Olcote	West Midlands
41 Beach Road	North West
15a Worsley Road	South East
71 The Fremnells	Eastern
110 Primley Park	South West
Danemere	South East
51a Chapel Park Road	South East
1 Springhead	South West
44 Monks Close	Eastern
362 Park Road	East Midlands
Autism Initiatives (85 Beatrice Street)	North West
Time-to-Care	North East
The Lodge	South West
1 The Cottages	Yorkshire and Humberside
Hollybush Villas	North East
3 Hainault Avenue	Eastern
Myddleton House	North West
Godwyne Hurst	South East
Hill View Care Home	South East
Fossdyke	North East
Hexthorpe House	Yorkshire and Humberside
Rowan—Innova House CLD	East Midlands

[1] 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2010.

Random or key inspections carried out by the CSCI under the Care Standards Act 2000[1]

Name	*Region*
5 Beacon Gardens	West Midlands
Bowley Close, 1	London
New Monterey	North West
Saxon House	South East
Glen Cottage	South East
Ethel Road (7)	South East
1 Empire Road	South West
10 Clifton Drive	East Midlands
The Butts	West Midlands
Barrington Road, 45a	London
82 Beagleswood Road	South East
Limekiln Farm	South East
Henbury View Road (Flat 19)	South West
Saxon House	Eastern
63 West Park Road	South West
Bath Road (4)	South West
Andover Close (31)	South East
134 Newtondale	Yorkshire and Humberside
Millpool	Eastern
44 Monks Close	Eastern
Olive House	London
Gunters Grove Farm	South West

[1] 1 September 2008 to 31 March 2009.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the (a) purchase date, (b) transaction amount, (c) supplier and (d) level 3 or enhanced transaction entry of each transaction undertaken by the Food Standards Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71703]

Anne Milton: The information for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is held manually and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nationals owe *(a)* under £1,000 and *(b)* over £1,000 for NHS treatment which they have received. [71916]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the balance of outstanding payments was for each country under the European Health Insurance Card scheme in the latest period for which information is available. [71946]

Anne Milton: For claims submitted up to an including the financial year 2010-11, a total of £38,487,035.14 is outstanding. A breakdown, by country, is shown in the following table.

	£
Austria	1,887,000
Belgium	0
Bulgaria	0
Cyprus	197,000
Czech Republic	64,000
Finland	0
France	3,078,000
Germany	538,000
Greece	1,957,000
Hungary	0
Iceland	0
Ireland	17,322,000
Italy	5,174,000
Latvia	0
Liechtenstein	0
Lithuania	0
Luxembourg	0
Netherlands	170,000
Norway	0
Poland	15,000
Portugal	2,472,000
Romania	231,000
Slovakia	1,000
Slovenia	167,000
Spain	5,214,000
Sweden	0
Switzerland	0
Total	38,500,000

Note:
Country totals are rounded to the nearest £1,000. Overall totals are rounded to the nearest £100,000. Sub-totals may not add up to totals due to rounding.

The amounts paid relate to combined claims for temporary visitors (via European health insurance cards, workers temporarily posted abroad by their employer and referrals for treatment in other European economic area countries. Due to the nature of the claims system between member states, it is not currently possible to disaggregate the data consistently for all member states by either type of claim or type of treatment.

Mental Health Services

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS admissions were made under Part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each NHS trust area in England in the latest year for which figures are available; [71650]

(2) what the percentage change was in the number of NHS admissions under Part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each NHS trust area between 2005-06 and the latest year for which figures are available; [71651]

(3) how many NHS admissions were made under Part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each primary care trust area in latest year for which figures are available; [71652]

(4) what the percentage change was in the number of NHS admissions under Part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each primary care trust area between 2004-05 and the latest year for which figures are available; [71653]

(5) how many admissions were made under Part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 per 1,000 head of population in each primary care trust area in the latest year for which figures are available; [71654]

(6) what the percentage change was in the number of admissions under Part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 per 1,000 head of population in each primary care trust area between 2004-05 and the latest year for which figures are available; [71655]

(7) how many NHS bed days were accounted for by people with a mental health related diagnosis in *(a)* each NHS trust area and *(b)* each primary care trust area in the most recent year for which figures are available; [71656]

(8) how many NHS bed days per 1,000 head of population were accounted for by people with a mental health related diagnosis in each primary care trust in the most recent year for which figures are available; [71657]

(9) how many patients were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 in each primary care trust area *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 head of population in the latest year for which figures are available; [71658]

(10) what the percentage change was in the number of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each primary care trust area between 2004-05 and the latest date for which figures are available. [71659]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of NHS admissions made under part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each primary care trust (PCT) has never been collected centrally, as it is an aggregate return from providers.

This means that it is not possible to calculate the percentage change between 2004 and a more recent period.

Information on how many admissions were made under part II of the Mental Health Act 1983 per 1,000 head of population in each PCT has never been collected centrally, as it is an aggregate return from providers. This means that it is not possible to calculate the percentage change between 2004 and the latest period for which figures are available.

Information on the number of patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 is not collected.

The rest of the information has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Sick Leave

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days of staff sickness absence there were in trust hospitals in England on average per employee in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [70583]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. There is no standard definition for the number of working days of an average national health service employee due to the NHS work force being extremely diverse in terms of occupations compared with many other public sector employers.

Information on the annual sickness absence percentage rate for the NHS and acute trusts in England, April 2009-March 2011 is in the following table.

Sickness absence rate, for the NHS and acute trusts in England, April 2009-March 2011

	Percentage	
April to March each year	*Total NHS*	*Of which: Acute trusts*
2009-10	4.40	4.18
2010-11	4.16	3.91

Notes:

1. Sickness absence rate is calculated by dividing the sum total sickness absence days by the sum total days available per month for each member of staff.

2. While lower sickness absence rates, in general, indicate lower levels of sickness absence it should be noted that lower rates can also indicate under reporting of sickness absence.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care—Processed using data taken from the Electronic Staff Record Data Warehouse.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on his proposal to end lifetime council house tenancies. [72059]

Grant Shapps: We are not ending tenancy for life. Landlords will have discretion to offer new lifetime tenancies, if they so choose. Our proposals will make the system in England much more flexible, allowing local authorities and social landlords to help the many people who are inadequately housed, or stuck on waiting lists, or overcrowded. There will be no change to the security and rights of existing social tenants.

Local Government: Sick Leave

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the number of days of staff sickness absence in local authorities in England on average per employee in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [70582]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Children's Television Programming

6. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with broadcasters on improving the representation of women and girls in children's television programming. [71824]

Lynne Featherstone: The role of the media in the positive portrayal of women and girls is widely recognised by Government, media organisations and the bodies which regulate the media. However, it is a long-standing principle that the Government do not interfere in programme content or scheduling.

Unemployment

8. **Alison McGovern:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the level of unemployment of young women; and if she will make a statement. [71826]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

Tackling youth unemployment, for both young women and young men, continues to be a key priority for this Government.

Government are supporting young people into work through investment in flexible, personalised employment support, apprenticeships, careers advice, work experience and training.

Young people will also benefit from the radical reform of the welfare, skills and education system already under way.

Flexible Working

9. **Jake Berry:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take to improve arrangements for flexible working. [71827]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

We want people to be able to balance work and caring responsibilities and the Government are committed to removing barriers that can stop that happening. Over the summer we put forward our proposals to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees and we will respond to that consultation in due course.

It is clear from our work with business that many are supportive of the principles of flexible working, showing that employers and employees alike recognise the benefits it brings.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Dr Poulter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department expects to publish its response to the consultation on air passenger duty. [71879]

Justine Greening: The Government will publish their response later this autumn.

Bank Services: Switzerland

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of tax that would be owed to the Exchequer on the capital and interest of funds held by UK taxpayers in Switzerland if they were taxed at the UK marginal tax rate; and if he will make a statement. [70405]

Mr Gauke: The UK is expected to receive billions of pounds under the agreement with Switzerland. It is impossible to quantify the amount of tax that would be owed by UK taxpayers in Switzerland if they were taxed at the UK marginal rate without further information.

Budgets: Equality

Jane Ellison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions his Department *(a)* conducted and *(b)* published an equality impact assessment of (i) the Budget and (ii) a Spending Review in the period from 1997 to 2010. [67965]

Justine Greening: The Government have not carried out retrospective assessments of Budgets or Spending Reviews in the period requested. However, on 20 October 2010 the Treasury published, for the first time, an overview of the impact of the Spending Review on groups protected by equalities legislation.

Since coming into office, the Government have also driven improvements in tax policy making. The Government now publishes a "Tax Information and Impact Note" for all individual tax policy changes. These explicitly include an assessment of the equalities impact of each individual measure.

The Budget is an overall statement of economic policy, containing a wide range of measures. It would not be possible to conduct an equality impact assessment over a broad range of measures.

Child Benefit

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs plans to publish the methodology for identifying those families with a higher rate taxpayer who will no longer be entitled to child benefit from January 2013; and if he will make a statement. [71485]

Mr Gauke: The policy to withdraw child benefit from families containing a higher rate taxpayer will be introduced from January 2013 and will be administered through the tax system using existing systems and processes. Child benefit will be withdrawn from families where the claimant, or their partner (with whom they are living) is a higher rate taxpayer. The tax status of anyone else in a household would be irrelevant. It will be the responsibility of the higher rate taxpayer to inform HMRC whether their household is in receipt of child benefit. Further details of the changes to child benefit will be announced in due course.

Departmental Manpower

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department between (i) November 1999 and June 2001, (ii) May 2002 and June 2007 and (iii) June 2007 and January 2008; and what the cost to the public purse was in (A) cash and (B) real terms of such appointments. [68329]

Justine Greening: Information on the number of special advisers and press officers that were employed for the periods specified in this request could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, HM Treasury's resource and accounts include details on annual costs for special advisers since 1999, and numbers of special advisers since 2004. These are available online at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100407010852/
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/dep_perf_reports_index.htm

Press Subscriptions

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on newspapers and periodicals in 2010-11. [67842]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury's spending on newspapers and periodicals in previous years is set out in the following table:

	£
2010-11	62,349
2009-10	119,000
2008-09	199,000
2007-08	142,000
2006-07	109,000

Treasury's corporate policy is that newspapers and periodicals can only be ordered where there is a valid business need. These requirements must be approved by a Deputy Director before any orders are placed.

Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of procurement contracts offered by his Department have been advertised on the Contracts Finder website since the website's inception. [67228]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury comply with the Government's transparency guidance on the publication of opportunities, tenders and contracts awarded over £10,000 in value on the Contracts Finder website.

Departmental performance can be seen in the published document at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/transparency-progress-reports

Up-to-date data (i.e. inclusive of contracts published in August 2011) will be reported by the Cabinet Office in September 2011.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69266]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 8 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 801W.

Table 6.D of the HM Treasury Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11 (HC 984) reports that non-pay Gross Admin Costs for the Treasury Group (including the Office for Budget Responsibility) reduced from £128 million in 2009-10 to £85 million in 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has not incurred any public expenditure since becoming an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body of HM Treasury in January 2010.

Equitable Life Payment Scheme

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Equitable Life Payment Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [71293]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* The scheme began making payments as planned on 30 June and hundreds of payments have been paid to date. Payment volumes will continue to be ramped up over the coming months as the scheme's complex payment processes are refined further.

The performance of the scheme will be closely monitored to ensure it is meeting its objectives and regular progress reports published.

Financial Institutions

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the international regulation of positions held by financial institutions in commodity markets via *(a)* hedge funds and *(b)* index funds; [71641]

(2) what his policy is on the limiting of positions held by financial institutions in commodity markets via *(a)* hedge funds and *(b)* index funds; [71642]

(3) what his policy is on the mandatory reporting of swaps transactions conducted by financial institutions in commodity markets via *(a)* hedge funds and *(b)* index funds; [71643]

(4) what discussions his Department has had with its international counterparts on the reporting of swaps transactions conducted by financial institutions in commodity markets via *(a)* hedge funds and *(b)* index funds; [71644]

(5) what studies his Department has conducted into links between the behaviour of index funds and monthly spikes in commodity prices in markets traded in the UK; [71645]

(6) if he will make an assessment of the effect of index funds on levels of liquidity within commodity markets traded in the UK in each of the last four financial years. [71646]

Mr Hoban: The Government closely monitors, relevant research on the role of financial market activity on commodity markets and prices.

It is important to note that trading in commodities markets plays an important role in providing liquidity (the volume of trades being made in a market) in these markets and that liquidity is essential to the effective functioning of these markets. Against the backdrop of climate change, and the possibility that international agricultural prices may become more volatile over time, the role of agricultural futures and options markets, and the liquidity they rely on, become more important. Liquid, well functioning markets bring important benefits to commodity producers, processors and traders, sending important price signals and allowing them to hedge price risks, and as such benefit end consumers as well.

The Government strongly supports the G20 commitment to improve the regulation, functioning, and transparency of financial and commodity markets and the UK authorities are playing a full role towards meeting this objective—working with partners in the EU and internationally. The Government supports greater transparency in commodities derivative markets, including the reporting of positions by trader type, especially where it enables data to be compared across different markets allowing regulators to analyse, interpret and act where necessary.

On the regulation, and limiting of positions in commodity markets, the Government supports strong regulatory oversight powers including through the application of an active and formalised position management regime. A position management regime means that the regulator actively monitors what is happening in the market. If it is concerned about any activity, the regulator can intervene with those carrying out the activity, requiring them to explain their actions or, if necessary, to wind down their position in the market. The authority to set position limits would appropriately be a part of a position management regime, though not the leading element. Position limits by their nature are inflexible tools, and the Government is sceptical that such measures would be effective in reducing the presence of a particular participant type in the market, or would be an effective tool to address price volatility. Indeed, position limits may ultimately reduce liquidity, which could pose serious risks to those markets and could increase price volatility.

Households: Children

Hilary Benn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households with *(a)* one or two children, *(b)* three or four children, *(c)* four or five children and *(d)* six children or more there are in (i) Leeds and (ii) the UK. [71907]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many households with (a) one or two children, (b) three or four children, (c) four or five children and (d) six children or more there are in (i) Leeds arid (ii) the UK. (71907)

The number and type of households in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey. Estimates are provided for households with dependent children. Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Data are shown for Leeds metropolitan borough and the UK in 2010. Because the estimates of households with six more dependent children in Leeds are not sufficiently robust, estimates are shown for households with (a) one or two children, (b) three or four children, and (c) five or more children. The estimates for the UK are shown on the same basis.

Households in the UK and Leeds by the number of dependent children in the household, 2010

thousands

Number of dependent children	*UK*	*Leeds*
One or two	6,499	95
Three or four	1,077	13
Five or more	76	1
All households with dependent children	7,652	108

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty and are therefore presented rounded to the nearest thousand. The totals may not sum exactly due to rounding.

Income Tax Yields

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the monetary value was of the tax receipts for each income tax band in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* each year since 2005; [70382]

(2) how many people paid income tax at each tax band in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* each year since 2005. [70383]

Mr Gauke: The estimated number of taxpayers liable for income tax by taxpayer marginal rate can be found in Table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers".

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm#liabilities

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) for 2000-01 to 2007-08. Estimates for 2008-09 onwards are based upon the 2007-08 SPI projected using economic assumptions consistent with the OBR's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

A breakdown of income tax receipts by income tax band is not available.

Inflation: Low Incomes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects of inflation on people with low and fixed incomes in the comprehensive spending review period. [70700]

Justine Greening: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the measurement of consumer prices inflation. The ONS does not publish estimates of inflation for people with low or fixed incomes. The Government have taken action to support the most vulnerable at a time of rising costs of living including cutting fuel duty, raising the personal allowance and protecting key benefits for pensioners.

Mass Media

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of his Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month between *(a)* November 1999 and June 2001, *(b)* May 2002 and June 2007 and *(c)* June 2007 and January 2008. [68368]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury did not conduct any national media cover evaluations in the periods specified.

Public Sector Debt

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the national debt was in May 2010 and what it is expected to be in May 2015 *(a)* in sterling and *(b)* as a proportion of gross domestic product. [70059]

Justine Greening: In May 2010, public sector net debt (excluding the temporary effect of the financial interventions) was £778.7 billion, or 53.7% of GDP. The Office of Budget Responsibility's March Economic and fiscal outlook estimates that PSND will reach £1,314 billion by the end of the fiscal year 2014-15, equivalent to 70.5% of GDP.

Taxis

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on taxis in 2010-11. [67844]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury's spend on taxis in previous years is set out in the table as follows:

	£
2010-11	97,875
2009-10	189,000
2008-09	219,000
2007-08	216,000
2006-07	188,000

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in transposing EU directive 2010/63/EU into UK law the provisions of the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 will be *(a)* retained as minimum standards and *(b)* strengthened. [71089]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* Article 2 to Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes allows member states to retain stricter national provisions in force on 9 November 2010. This is provided such measures are not used to inhibit the free market by prohibiting or impeding the supply or use of animals from another member state applying the minimum standards set out in the directive, or the placing on the market of products developed with the use of such animals.

The public consultation on the transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU which closed on 5 September 2011 invited views on the use of Article 2 in transposing the directive into UK legislation. Responses to the consultation will be carefully considered before decisions are taken on how to proceed with regard to this issue.

Animal Welfare: Standards

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to safeguard animal welfare standards in laboratories. [72026]

Lynne Featherstone: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires high standards of welfare for all animals used in regulated procedures. Unless a specific exemption is granted, the animals must be housed and cared for in accordance with the standards which are laid down in the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and two Codes of Practice for the housing and care of animals used in scientific procedures.

These exist to ensure good husbandry and to safeguard animal welfare. The guidelines represent a consensus of views obtained not only from scientists and others working in academic and industrial institutions but also from societies and associations that have a direct interest in terms of animal welfare. These can be accessed through the Home Office website.

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate closely monitors compliance with these requirements.

Asylum

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the reform of the asylum system; and if she will make a statement. [71107]

Damian Green *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* Reform of the asylum system has already begun, through our Asylum Improvement Project.

We have already seen improvement outcomes from this project. We have scrapped the system which encouraged case owners to concentrate on files that were easy to resolve and discouraged them from tackling older cases and have introduced a new performance framework consisting of a wide range of performance indicators which will help us to monitor the overall health of the asylum system.

The project published its one-year-on progress report in May 2011. The report can be found on the UK Border Agency website.

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/asylum-improvement-project/

Entry Clearances: Diplomatic Service

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the embassies of *(a)* Denmark, *(b)* El Salvador, *(c)* Equatorial Guinea, *(d)* Eritrea, *(e)* Estonia, *(f)* Ethiopia, *(g)* Finland, *(h)* France, *(i)* Gabon, *(j)* Georgia, *(k)* Germany, *(l)* Greece, *(m)* Guatemala, *(n)* Guinea, *(o)* Guyana, *(p)* the Holy See, *(q)* Honduras, *(r)* Hungary, *(s)* Iceland, *(t)* Indonesia, *(u)* Iran, *(v)* Iraq, *(w)* Ireland, *(x)* Israel and *(y)* Italy in the last five years; [71721]

(2) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the embassies of *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Albania, *(c)* Algeria, *(d)* Angola, *(e)* Argentina, *(f)* Armenia, *(g)* Austria, *(h)* Belgium, *(i)* Bolivia, *(j)* Bosnia and

Herzegovina, *(k)* Brazil, *(l)* Bulgaria, *(m)* Burma, *(n)* Burundi, *(o)* Cambodia, *(p)* Cameroon, *(q)* Chile, *(r)* China, *(s)* Colombia, *(t)* The Democratic Republic of Congo, *(u)* Costa Rica, *(v)* Cote d'Ivoire, *(w)* Croatia, *(x)* Cuba and *(y)* Czech Republic in the last five years; [71722]

(3) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the embassies of *(a)* Japan, *(b)* Jordan, *(c)* Kuwait, *(d)* Kyrgyzstan, *(e)* Laos, *(f)* Latvia, *(g)* Lebanon, *(h)* Liberia, *(i)* Lithuania, *(j)* Luxembourg, *(k)* Macedonia, *(l)* Mexico, *(m)* Moldova, *(n)* Monaco, *(o)* Mongolia, *(p)* Morocco, *(q)* Nepal, *(r)* Netherlands, *(s)* Nicaragua, *(t)* Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *(u)* Norway and *(v)* Oman in the last five years; [71723]

(4) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the embassies of *(a)* Panama, *(b)* Paraguay, *(c)* Peru, *(d)* Philippines, *(e)* Poland, *(f)* Portugal, *(g)* Qatar, *(h)* Romania, *(i)* Saudi Arabia, *(j)* Senegal, *(k)* Slovak Republic, *(l)* Serbia, *(m)* Republic of Kosovo, *(n)* Slovenia, *(o)* Spain, *(p)* Sudan, *(q)* Sweden and *(r)* Switzerland in the last five years; [71724]

(5) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the embassies of *(a)* Taiwan, *(b)* Tajikistan, *(c)* Thailand, *(d)* Tunisia, *(e)* Turkey, *(f)* Turkmenistan, *(g)* USA, *(h)* Uruguay, *(i)* Uzbekistan, *(j)* Venezuela, *(k)* Vietnam, *(l)* Yemen and *(m)* Zimbabwe in the last five years; [71725]

(6) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the high commissions of *(a)* Antigua and Barbuda, *(b)* Australia, *(c)* Bahamas, *(d)* Bangladesh, *(e)* Barbados, *(f)* Botswana, *(g)* Brunei, *(h)* Cameroon, *(i)* Canada, *(j)* Cyprus, *(k)* Dominica, *(l)* Fiji, *(m)* Gambia, *(n)* Ghana, *(o)* Grenada, *(p)* Guyana, *(q)* India, *(r)* Jamaica, *(s)* Kiribati, *(t)* Lesotho, *(u)* Malawi, *(v)* Malaysia, *(w)* Malta, *(x)* Mauritius and *(y)* Mozambique in the last five years; [71726]

(7) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the high commissions of *(a)* Namibia, *(b)* New Zealand, *(c)* Nigeria, *(d)* Pakistan, *(e)* Papua New Guinea, *(f)* Rwanda, *(g)* Saint Christopher and Nevis, *(h)* Saint Lucia, *(i)* Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, *(j)* Sierra Leone, *(k)* Singapore, *(l)* Sri Lanka, *(m)* Swaziland, *(n)* Tanzania, *(o)* Tonga, *(p)* Trinidad and Tobago, *(q)* Uganda and *(r)* Zambia in the last five years. [71727]

Damian Green: The number of diplomatic visas issued by nationality in the last five years is shown in the following table:

Nationality	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Afghanistan	16	20	13	21	22	92
Albania	28	26	29	11	19	113
Algeria	22	29	63	42	43	199
Angola	12	30	10	15	10	77
Argentina	5	1	5	5	—	16
Armenia	12	5	10	7	13	47
Australia	18	22	21	44	40	145
Austria	—	—	—	—	1	1
Azerbaijan	9	24	11	7	8	59
Bahrain	3	8	10	7	11	39
Bangladesh	33	67	57	35	44	236
Barbados	4	7	5	2	—	18
Belarus	24	11	11	13	16	75
Belgium	—	—	—	—	1	1
Belize	—	—	2	—	—	2
Benin	—	1	—	4	2	7
Bhutan	—	—	—	4	2	6
Bolivia	5	4	—	10	1	20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13	6	6	13	5	43
Botswana	6	2	2	1	4	15
Brazil	28	25	19	28	20	120
Brunei	55	49	32	8	21	165
Bulgaria	27	—	—	—	—	27
Burkina	3	6	3	3	13	28
Burma(Myanmar)	5	17	8	12	1	43
Burundi	1	1	—	1	—	3
Cambodia	—	2	2	4	5	13
Cameroon	43	20	31	27	29	150
Canada	53	21	25	42	64	205
Cape Verde	—	—	—	1	1	2
Central African Republic	1	1	—	1	1	4
Chad	1	—	—	—	3	4
Chile	26	19	15	41	40	141
China	80	116	8	20	12	236
Colombia	44	61	28	58	35	226
Congo	1	1	1	6	6	15
Costa Rica	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croatia	8	2	3	2	4	19
Cuba	—	59	43	24	20	146
Democratic Republic of Congo	17	43	17	22	2	101
Djibouti	—	4	—	2	3	9
Dominica	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dominican Republic	5	11	10	5	3	34
Ecuador	3	9	7	7	13	39
Egypt	76	153	148	124	114	615
El Salvador	1	1	—	—	—	2
Equatorial Guinea	5	—	6	2	5	18
Eritrea	1	11	1	1	1	15
Ethiopia	11	40	25	7	23	106
Fiji	8	6	4	3	3	24
Gabon	20	3	26	12	—	61
Gambia	18	26	11	28	55	138
Georgia	10	15	11	10	10	56
Germany	—	—	1	—	1	2
Ghana	40	56	67	97	56	316
Guatemala	1	2	—	—	3	6
Guinea	18	21	7	16	6	68
Guinea-Bissau	—	—	1	—	1	2
Guyana	5	7	5	2	—	19
Honduras	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hong Kong	3	—	2	2	—	7
India	117	117	103	123	111	571
Indonesia	34	17	35	35	39	160
Iran	73	98	122	43	28	364
Iraq	21	56	74	59	24	234
Israel	—	1	—	1	1	3
Italy	—	1	—	—	1	2
Ivory Coast	24	43	23	22	32	144
Jamaica	5	14	16	36	30	101
Japan	63	34	65	61	53	276
Jordan	26	52	62	69	63	272
Kazakhstan	17	27	49	31	73	197

Nationality	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Kenya	24	21	45	38	34	162
Korea (North)	2	1	3	2	4	12
Kosovo	—	—	—	11	1	12
Kuwait	68	73	95	119	104	459
Kyrgyzstan	6	6	2	11	8	33
Laos	1	2	—	4	1	8
Lebanon	4	4	6	7	2	23
Lesotho	3	2	5	9	6	25
Liberia	3	20	8	9	8	48
Libya	39	38	87	39	31	234
Macedonia	1	5	11	17	7	41
Madagascar	5	9	4	7	1	26
Malawi	17	11	13	4	13	58
Malaysia	44	44	23	29	23	163
Maldives	1	5	7	7	—	20
Mali	—	3	4	2	7	16
Mauritania	8	1	2	—	2	13
Mauritius	6	1	5	—	—	12
Mexico	14	8	17	12	5	56
Moldova	—	8	16	10	18	52
Monaco	—	1	—	—	—	1
Mongolia	9	12	16	4	31	72
Montenegro	—	—	3	4	7	14
Morocco	12	27	35	55	24	153
Mozambique	6	8	21	15	6	56
Namibia	12	6	—	2	5	25
Nepal	6	12	10	5	6	39
New Zealand	26	19	21	13	15	94
Niger	—	—	1	2	1	4
Nigeria	58	99	91	99	129	476
Oman	24	40	46	47	36	193
Pakistan	75	147	110	117	100	549
Palestinian Authority	—	1	1	1	—	3
Panama	—	—	—	3	—	3
Papua New Guinea	4	—	3	14	1	22
Peru	16	26	14	9	9	74
Philippines	27	152	57	166	34	436
Portugal	—	—	—	—	1	1
Qatar	12	20	17	11	28	88
Romania	20	1	1	—	—	22
Russia	338	111	136	197	35	817
Rwanda	5	8	12	3	10	38
Saudi Arabia	233	212	305	335	220	1,305
Senegal	5	19	6	18	19	67
Serbia	—	—	3	11	15	29
Seychelles	—	—	—	—	4	4
Sierra Leone	21	27	40	24	4	116
Singapore	11	6	11	9	13	50
Slovakia	—	—	1	—	—	1
Somalia	—	—	2	1	2	5
South Africa	—	3	9	70	100	182
South Korea	33	36	30	52	24	175
Spain	—	1	—	—	—	1
Sri Lanka	9	29	69	29	18	154
St Kitts and Nevis	1	—	—	—	—	1
St Lucia	—	1	—	—	—	1
Sudan	39	47	47	73	50	256
Surinam	—	—	2	—	—	2
Swaziland	—	—	—	6	7	13
Syria	12	25	7	23	11	78
Tajikistan	10	1	10	8	6	35
Tanzania	48	12	20	23	16	119
Thailand	22	38	22	22	36	140
Togo	—	—	1	—	5	6
Tonga	5	1	—	2	—	8
Trinidad and Tobago	10	2	1	3	—	16
Tunisia	42	31	22	26	23	144
Turkey	54	67	69	50	67	307
Turkmenistan	2	9	9	10	—	30
Uganda	17	12	11	14	18	72
Ukraine	32	35	67	50	37	221
United Arab Emirates	154	122	56	130	71	533
United Nations	—	—	—	1	—	1
United States	30	66	66	73	191	426
Uruguay	—	1	1	2	2	6
Uzbekistan	12	7	12	21	8	60
Venezuela	2	5	19	9	2	37
Vietnam	15	21	23	34	12	105
Yemen	11	36	29	25	11	112
Yugoslavia	21	24	26	13	—	84
Zambia	48	70	30	46	12	206
Zimbabwe	27	31	19	25	6	108

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason private colleges which run courses validated by a university are subject to an additional review under tier 4 arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [70732]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 September 2011]*: Under Tier 4 of the points based system (PBS) we have seen that the level of compliance with PBS obligations has been closely aligned to the type of institution, with higher rates of abuse found in the privately funded sector. We are moving to a system of more rigorous inspection to be carried out by the independent bodies that have previously inspected the sectors with the highest levels of compliance.

University validation is limited to particular courses and in many cases does not cover the majority of courses offered by a college, and is therefore insufficient for Tier 4 purposes.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were accepted for consideration as victims of trafficking by the National Referral Mechanism but were subsequently not pursued because the person was the victim of abusive practices but was not trafficked in the latest period for which figures are available. [71993]

Damian Green: During the first 24 months of the National Referral Mechanism's operation to 31 March 2011, competent authority decision makers found reasonable grounds for believing trafficking had occurred in 895 cases. This is 67% of the cases referred where there has been a decision made. A further 450 cases (33%) did not meet the reasonable grounds threshold.

A competent authority will assess a case according to the definition of trafficking given in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. They are not responsible for assessing whether a person is a victim of other abusive practices or crimes.

Criminal allegations may be investigated by the police and wider protection issues are considered by the UK Border Agency.

Offenders

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 908W, on first offenders, how many people given a custodial sentence for a first offence of a non-violent and non-sexual nature were sentenced to a prison term of less than one year in each year since 2005. [71791]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The table gives figures for the total number of offenders who were convicted for a first offence of a non-violent or non-sexual nature and given an immediate custodial sentence, from the 12 month period ending March 2006 to the 12 month period ending March 2011. These figures have been taken from the dataset used for the production of Table Q7m and Table Q7n of 'Criminal Justice Statistics, Quarterly Update to March 2011' which was published on 25 August 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

The table provides an update of the figures provided in the answer of 27 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 908W, as well as providing additional figures for offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months.

Number of offenders who were convicted and sentenced to immediate custody for a first offence of a non-violent or non-sexual nature in England and Wales, 12 months ending March 2006 to 12 months ending March 2011, indictable offences only[1]

	First time offenders sentenced for a first offence of a non-violent or non-sexual nature				
	Immediate custody			*Immediate custodial sentences of less than 12 months in*	
Sentenced in 12 months ending March	*All*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006	27,420	6,456	23.5	3,436	12.5
2007	25,415	6,165	24.3	3,223	12.7
2008	25,636	7,247	28.3	3,992	15.6
2009	25,370	7,148	28.2	3,491	13.8
2010	25,322	6,766	26.7	3,232	12.8
2011	25,247	5,993	23.7	2,676	10.6

[1] Including indictable and trial either ways offences.

Notes:

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Overseas Students: Employment

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason overseas students studying at independent colleges are prohibited from undertaking paid work while studying; and if she will make a statement. [70731]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* Under Tier 4 of the points based system (PBS) we have seen that the level of compliance with PBS obligations has been closely aligned to the type of institution, with higher rates of abuse found in the privately funded sector. That is why in July we restricted the right to work to students studying at universities and publicly funded colleges.

It is entirely appropriate to afford greater privileges in areas of the sector with a better track record of both compliance with their sponsor duties and recruitment of international students who are more likely to comply with the terms of their leave.

Overseas Students: Religion

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with colleges which provide religious education on changes to the Tier 4 accreditation process. [71189]

Damian Green: The Government's fundamental reforms of student visas will tighten up the system, tackle abuse and ensure we continue to attract the brightest and the best students from across the world. We are moving to a system of more rigorous inspection of those privately funded institutions that sponsor international students, carried out by independent bodies that already inspect the sectors with the highest levels of compliance. There has been a significant amount of correspondence about these changes and a number of discussions at official level with representatives of colleges that provide religious education.

Visas

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from professional bodies regarding the changes to Tier 1 and 2 visas. [70456]

Damian Green: We have received no representations from professional bodies regarding the changes to Tier 1 and Tier 2 since the public consultation in 2010, expect for discussions with representatives of the legal profession.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times he has met Adam Werritty *(a)* in total and *(b)* in his Department's main building since May 2010. [71541]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* I have met Mr Werritty 14 times at the Ministry of Defence Main Building over the last 16 months but not in an official capacity.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Adam Werritty has travelled with him on overseas visits since May 2010. [71542]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* Mr Werritty is not an employee of the Ministry of Defence and has, therefore, not travelled with me on any official overseas visits.

Armed Forces: Housing

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of empty service family quarters. [71412]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 September 2011 there were 6,245 void service family accommodation (SFA) properties in the UK, representing 12.72% of housing stock.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) will always need to maintain a management margin of empty properties in order to ensure that homes are available for entitled families when required. Further properties are held empty to allow major upgrade work to take place, or pending bulk moves of personnel or disposal action. The MOD is committed to reducing the number of void SFA properties to a target management margin of 10% of total stock.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on upgrading service personnel accommodation in each month since May 2010. [71413]

Mr Robathan: The service family accommodation (SFA) upgrade programme targets those properties in the greatest need and upgrades them to the highest standard for condition (SfC). Other improvement activities, such as new kitchen and bathroom programmes, may also have the effect of upgrading properties to the highest SfC, however it is not possible to separately identify such expenditure.

The Ministry of Defence upgraded 898 SFA to the highest SfC in financial year 2010-11 and aims to upgrade 800 this financial year subject to funding. The cost of the SFA upgrade programme since May 2010 is shown in the following table:

	£ million
May 2010	4.9
June 2010	3.6
July 2010	3.7
August 2010	1.6
September 2010	2.1
October 2010	2.5
November 2010	2.1
December 2010	2.2
January 2011	6.1
February 2011	4.7
March 2011	6.1
April 2011	1.6
May 2011	4.9
June 2011	5.4
July 2011	2.8

The single living accommodation (SLA) upgrade programme is being delivered through various initiatives across the Department, including private finance initiative projects where SLA improvements are only one element of the work, therefore exact expenditure by month cannot be separately identified without disproportionate cost.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes are provided for service personnel and their families in City of York constituency; and how many have been provided in each year since 1994. [71494]

Mr Robathan: There are currently 147 service family accommodation (SFA) properties within the City of York constituency.

A total of 89 SFA properties in the City of York constituency have been disposed of since 1996. Records prior to this date are no longer available.

	SFA disposals
2000	1
2001	57
2002	30
2005	1
Total	89

Armed Forces: Investigations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what investigation his Department conducted into an incident on 15 November 2006 in Helmand Province in Afghanistan in which a Royal Marines Commando patrol reportedly fired warning shots at a white Hilux vehicle, resulting in the death of two civilians and two civilians being wounded; when that investigation was conducted, which part of his Department conducted that investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of that investigation; [19901]

(2) what investigation his Department conducted into allegations relating to the conduct of Coldstream Guards in Afghanistan in October and November 2007; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted this investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20787]

(3) what investigation his Department conducted into an incident on 6 November 2007 in Kabul in which a son of an Afghan general was reportedly killed by a warning shot from an unidentified UK company; when

this investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20788]

(4) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 25 October 2007 in Kabul, in which a vehicle reportedly failed to stop for an unidentified patrol and a warning shot was reportedly fired by a British soldier; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20789]

(5) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 21 October 2007 in Kabul, in which an unidentified British vehicle with a gunner on top reportedly wounded three civilian interpreters; when this investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20790]

(6) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 4 October 2007 in Kabul, in which British soldiers reportedly wounded a non-combatant with a warning shot; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20791]

(7) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 10 November 2009 in Helmand province in which a patrol of 1 Company Coldstream Guards reportedly killed a driver who failed to stop; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20792]

(8) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on (1) 30 September 2009 in Helmand province, in which a platoon from B Company, 4th Battalion The Rifles, called in an air strike; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20793]

(9) 28 May 2009 in Helmand province, in which a patrol from A Company, 2nd Battalion The Rifles, reportedly shot at a car; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20794]

(10) 19 May 2009 in Helmand province, in which Gurkhas mentoring a police unit reportedly called in a Harrier air strike after an ambush; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20795]

(11) 22 October 2008 in Helmand province, in which a soldier in a British squad mentoring the Afghan army reportedly killed a motorcyclist; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20796]

(12) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 14 October 2008 in Helmand province, in which Y Company 45 Commando Royal Marines reportedly hit a motorcyclist at a roadblock; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20797]

(13) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 12 March 2008 in Helmand province, in which ambushed troops reportedly called in gunships after a soldier was wounded; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20798]

(14) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 19 November 2008 in Helmand province in which soldiers from J Company, 42 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly fired warning shots at a vehicle approaching a convoy; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20799]

(15) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 26 March 2009 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot and wounded a motorcyclist observing the patrol; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20800]

(16) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 3 January 2009 in Helmand province in which British mentors with the Afghan army allegedly fired a warning rifle shot at a suspicious person; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20801]

(17) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 19 January 2009 in Helmand province in which Y Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, called in a Reaper drone to launch a missile on alleged Taliban; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20802]

(18) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 27 January 2009 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot at two people watching the patrol; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20803]

(19) what investigation his Department has conducted into the incident on 4 December 2008 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot and wounded a man; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20804]

(20) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 24 December 2009 in Helmand province in which L Company, 42 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot at an approaching vehicle; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his

Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20805]

(21) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 30 December 2009 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Command Royal Marines, reportedly fired a warning shot at a white van; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20806]

(22) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 29 November 2008 in Helmand province in which a police patrol mentored by UK troops reportedly shot at a vehicle driven by another Afghan policeman; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation. [20860]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* We deeply regret all civilian casualties. Protecting the Afghan civilian population is a cornerstone of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)'s mission, and all British troops undergo comprehensive training on the strict rules of engagement. Where incidents do occur, procedures are in place to ensure they are promptly reported to the chain of command and follow-up actions take place in accordance with ISAF and UK national procedures. This contrasts directly with the attitude of the insurgents, whose indiscriminate use of suicide bombs, roadside explosive devices and human shields cause the majority of civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan. We will continue our efforts to prevent insurgents harming civilians and to develop the capacity of Afghan security forces to protect the population.

The records relating to the follow-up actions taken following these incidents are not held centrally by the Department and will take time to identify. I will write to the hon. Member once work has been completed.

Substantive answer from Liam Fox to Paul Flynn:

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Questions on 3 November 2010 (Official Report, columns 847W-850W) on Armed Forces Investigations. I am new in a position to do so.

Let me begin by reiterating that protecting Afghan civilians is among our and ISAF's top priorities. There are strict procedures in place to both minimise the risk of casualties occurring and to investigate any incidents that, regrettably, do happen. Where there are incidents in which civilians have been injured or killed, and UK forces are potentially believed to have been involved, the chain of command conducts an investigation to ensure that Rules of Engagement (ROE) have been complied with and Escalation of Force procedures followed. If it is suspected that a criminal act has taken place it will be reported to the Service Police for further investigation.

The information disclosed by Wikileaks about each incident came from the Serious incident Report, which is an initial snapshot of what occurred, often reported in the few moments immediately after an event. Because of their immediacy to the event these reports do not always have all of the-facts and it is .for this reason that sub-sequent, more detailed investigations are conducted to consider all of the relevant information.

I can confirm that we have located the necessary records to confirm that 11 of the incidents you enquired about were fully investigated by the Chain of Command in theatre. All the troops involved complied with UK ROE and followed Escalation of Force procedures correctly. Those incidents were:

Allegation	*Date*
Allegation 3	21 October 2007
Allegation 4	25 October 2007
Allegation 5	6 November 2007
Allegation 8	22 October 2008
Allegation 10	29 November 2008
Allegation 12	24 December 2008
Allegation 13	30 December 2008
Allegation 16	27 January 2009
Allegation 18	19 May 2009
Allegation 19	28 May 2009
Allegation 21	10 November 2009

A further five incidents were investigated by the Chain of Command but the reports we have located are incomplete:

Allegation	*Date*
Allegation 1	15 November 2006
Allegation 7	14 October 2008
Allegation 11	4 December 2008
Allegation 14	3 January 2009
Allegation 17	26 March 2009

We have been unable to confirm whether these reports were not completed properly or simply the wrong version was filed upon return from theatre. However, they had all found that the troops had not breached UK law or ROE.

Allegation 2 (dated 4 October 2007) was, as you know, attributed to an unknown patrol. Despite the extensive searches we have undertaken no further details of this incident have been uncovered.

Allegation 9 (dated 19 November 2008) was investigated by the Chain of Command. A summary of the investigation report was located in a separate document, which found that the troops involved correctly followed Escalation of Force procedures, but it has not been possible to locate the report itself.

For two incidents, Allegation 15 (dated 19 January 2009) and Allegation 20 (dated 30 September 2009), the civilian casualties were caused by other ISAF nations, and, in accordance with policy at the time, were not investigated by the UK. Our policy now states that in such circumstances, where UK troops are .involved even if clearly not directly responsible for a civilian casualty, a UK investigation will take place.

With regard to Allegation 6 (dated 12 March 2008), no investigation took place as there was no indication of civilian casualties. A possible Afghan National Police casualty was initially reported (as published by Wikileaks) but a few moments later he was confirmed as a UK soldier. UK helicopters were called in and engaged the enemy. However, despite The Guardian stating two women and two children were killed, and another child injured, in this incident there is no mention of this in our reports.

None of the incidents were reported to the Service Police for further investigation.

The-Permanent Joint Headquarters has completed a review of the policy regarding these incidents to confirm the reporting process and ensure investigations are properly recorded.

I will not be placing copies of the investigation reports in the Library of the House as their release could prejudice the safety and effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

I hope this response has been helpful.

Ben Parkinson

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson will not be discharged from the Army on medical grounds whilst he is in receipt of medical rehabilitation from his Department. [71620]

Mr Robathan: We do not comment on individual cases. However, I can confirm that every case is assessed individually and no one will leave the armed forces until they have reached a point in their recovery where it is right for them to leave, however long that takes.

Commando Brigade

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Order of Battle is of the Commando Brigade. [71103]

Peter Luff: As at 7 September 2011, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines consisted of:

Cdo IX Group
40, 42 and 45 Cdo RM
1 Rifles
29 Cdo Reg (Royal Artillery)
24 Cdo (Royal Engineers)
Cdo Logistics Regiment
539 Assault Squadron
Armoured Support Group

Outside the brigade, the Royal Marines include the following units:

Force Protection Group
1 Assault Group
Commando Training Centre
Commando Helicopter Forces
Royal Marines Band

Defence Reform Review

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he expects to be saved as a result of the implementation of Lord Levene's recommendations in the report, Defence Reform—an independent report into the structure and management of the Ministry of Defence, published in June 2011. [71276]

Dr Fox: As the Defence Reform report explains, its aim was to develop a simpler and more effective model for the management of Defence. While this should enable the Department to make significant reductions in running costs and get greater value for money out of the Defence budget this was not its primary purpose. Work during the implementation phase will determine the projected savings, and any associated costs, from those Defence Reform recommendations that become formal change programmes.

Defence Support Group

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to sell *(a)* the Defence Support Group, *(b)* the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre and *(c)* his Department's share of the telecommunications spectrum. [70845]

Peter Luff: As the strategic defence and security review made clear, sales of assets such as the Defence Support Group and the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre and the defence stake in the telecommunications spectrum, should generate in excess of £500 million over the spending review period. Sales are expected to be completed by the end of the current comprehensive spending review period in 2015.

Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect the transposition of directive 2009/81/EC into UK law will have on Yellow Book procurement rules regarding sole source procurement. [70849]

Peter Luff: The transposition of Directive 2009/81/EC into UK law will have no effect on the current arrangements used by the Ministry of Defence for pricing work that it has decided to procure on a sole source basis. These arrangements are often referred to as 'Yellow Book' rules. This is because the EU treaties and the directive establishes the legal framework under which a decision is made to procure goods, works and services in the defence and security fields either sole source or through competition. Only when that decision has been made are any specific rules governing the selected type of procurement applied. When a decision, in compliance with that legal framework, has been made to procure sole source, then the existing sole source arrangements will continue to apply to that procurement.

Manpower

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army personnel, *(b)* Ministry of Defence Police, *(c)* civil servants working for his Department and *(d)* civilian staff of his Department were employed at (i) Dreghorn, (ii) Redford and (iii) Craigiehall barracks in the latest period for which figures are available. [71812]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 14 September 2011]:* The figures requested are shown in the following table.

	Army	*MOD Police*	*MOD Civilians*
Craigiehall	180	1	158
Dreghorn	592	0	14
Redford	745	0	£50

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police and MOD civilian figures represent the actual numbers of personnel in post at 31 August 2011.

The Army figures have been taken from the joint personnel administration system and represent the number of Army personnel employed at the locations as at 13 September 2011.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by his Department as of March 2011. [71223]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently has no private finance initiative (PFI) projects in procurement. It does have a small potential future pipeline of housing and aircrew training service projects which are subject to investment decisions prior to commencing procurement. The MOD remains committed to using PFI only where it is value for money.

Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's Business Plan 2011-2015, how much is projected to be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the reduction of the number of Tornados in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [71275]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL (near cash)	0	30	35	90
Capital DEL	10	0	0	5
Other Resource DEL	0	0	0	0

No savings were identified in 2010-11

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes depreciation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* has been saved and *(b)* is projected to be saved in each financial year of the spending review period in (i) Resource DEL, (ii) Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from sales of his Department's assets. [71277]

Dr Fox: The Department has agreed a target of £162 million of capital receipts over the spending review period from disposing of assets that could be sold as viable businesses. Preparatory work is in the early stages and will include a value for money analysis to identify ongoing costs and potential savings for each of the asset sales. The earliest receipt is likely to be realised during financial year 2013-14.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much will be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total by April 2013 from the withdrawal of the three variants of the TriStar transport/tanker aircraft from service. [71282]

Dr Fox: The savings to April 2013 are expected to be as follows:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*
Resource DEL (near cash)	15	30
Capital DEL	5	Nil
Other Resource DEL	0	0

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the Strategic Defence and Security Review was treated as Annually Managed Expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes depreciation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much will be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total by March 2012 from placing at extended readiness a landing and command ship. [71283]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL (near cash)	10	10	15	10
Capital DEL	0	0	0	0
Other Resource DEL	0	0	0	0

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence and security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes deprecation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the removal of the Royal Navy component of the Joint Harrier Force from service; [71284]

(2) how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the removal of the RAF component of the Joint Harrier Force from service. [71285]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	£ million 2014-15
Resource DEL (near cash)	125	170	180	180
Capital DEL	25	40	15	15
Other Resource DEL	305	320	325	330

The figures represent the total projected savings arising from the retirement of the Joint Harrier Force. We have not calculated the projected savings individually for the Royal Naval and Royal Air Force components as many costs are common and are not directly attributable, to either service.

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence and security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes depreciation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the decommissioning of HMS Ark Royal. [71286]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	£ million 2014-15
Resource DEL (near cash)	10	25	35	35
Capital DEL	0	0	0	0
Other Resource DEL	25	25	25	25

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence and security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes depreciation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the reduction by four in the number of frigates. [71287]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be as follows:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14-	£ million 2014-15
Resource DEL (near cash)	15	45	70	75
Capital DEL	10	10	5	5
Other Resource DEL	-10	-10	-10	-10

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the Strategic Defence and Security Review was treated as Annually Managed Expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes deprecation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the decommissioning of one Bay-class amphibious support ship. [71288]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	£ million 2014-15
Resource DEL (near cash)	10	5	5	5
Capital DEL	5	0	0	0
Other Resource DEL	-20	5	5	5

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence and security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes deprecation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's Business Plan 2011-2015, how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from not bringing into service the Nimrod MRA4 maritime patrol aircraft. [71289]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be as follows:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL (near cash)	85	195	220	210
Capital DEL	55	5	5	15
Other Resource DEL	150	150	150	150

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the Strategic Defence and Security Review was treated as Annually Managed Expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes depreciation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's Business Plan 2011-2015, what efficiencies over the Comprehensive Spending Review period, including work under the Transforming Defence programme, have been made; how much is projected to be saved in respect of those efficiencies in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually managed expenditure and *(d)* in total in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [71300]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL (near cash)	185	505	970	1,100
Capital DEL	-5	-25	115	440
Other Resource DEL	0	0	-5	-10

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence and security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes deprecation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million. They do not include any future efficiency that may result from future planning rounds or the programming of the Transforming Defence programme.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much is projected to be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the Ministry of Defence Efficiency Programme in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [71301]

Dr Fox: *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL (near cash)	185	505	970	1,100
Capital DEL	-5	-25	115	440
Other Resource DEL	0	0	-5	-10

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence and security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes deprecation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million. They do not include any future efficiency that may result from future planning rounds or the programming of the Transforming Defence programme.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what non-front line costs his Department incurred in 2010-11 in respect of *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL and *(c)* AME. [71608]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* Non-front line costs are not routinely calculated separately. The Ministry of Defence is committed to saving at least £4.3 billion in activities that have been identified as non-front line over the spending review period. Progress against this target will be reported in the Department's business plan.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to save through reductions in commodity spend in respect of *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL and *(c)* AME in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [71692]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence expects to save approximately £80 million over the spending review period as a result of additional reductions in commodity spend. Details of when these savings will be realised are still being developed.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* has been saved and *(b)* is projected to be saved in each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period from reductions in spend on media and communications from (i) Resource DEL, (ii) Capital DEL, (iii) AME and (iv) in total. [71609]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* Savings over the next four years are expected to be as follows:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	£ million 2014-15
Resource DEL (near cash)	10	15	20	20
Capital DEL	0	0	0	0
Other DEL	0	0	0	0

These figures do not include savings related to advertising and marketing in support of service recruiting.

Other Resource DEL includes depreciation and the costs of writing down or writing off the value of capital equipment no longer required. In 2010-11, the portion of this cost attributable to decisions made in the strategic defence and security review was treated as annually managed expenditure. Its treatment in 2011-12 and future years has yet to be decided.

Because Resource DEL includes depreciation, which is the capital cost of equipment spread over time, it cannot be added to Capital DEL to give a total figure.

All figures are planning assumptions and are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to save through estate rationalisation through *(a)* sales and *(b)* reduced operational costs in respect of (i) Resource DEL, (ii) Capital DEL and (iii) AME in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [71694]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* As announced as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Ministry of Defence expects to save up to £350 million per year through the rationalisation of the Defence estate and associated running cost savings including a revised approach to the way we manage and deliver infrastructure services across the estate. Sales of assets should generate in excess of £500 million over the comprehensive spending review period.

Detailed plans are being developed and finalised as part of the current and future planning rounds. Further details or a profile are not available at this time.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings to the public purse he expects to achieve from the Submarine Enterprise Performance Programme in respect of *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL and *(c)* AME during the comprehensive spending review period. [71768]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review stated that the Submarine Enterprise Performance Programme was expected to deliver savings of at least £900 million over the next 10 years. These savings, which are subject to further work, are expected to start to accrue towards the end of the comprehensive spending review period, and are all expected to be in respect of Capital DEL.

Official Overseas Visits

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's policy on overseas travel for departmental *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* parliamentary private secretaries. [71442]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Official ministerial overseas travel is undertaken only where there is a clear defence requirement. Such travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules of the Ministerial Code, which is available from the following website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/ministerial-conduct-and-guidance

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he plans to deploy more troops to Gibraltar; [70874]

(2) how much his Department spent on the defence of Gibraltar in each of the last 10 years. [70883]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review confirmed our commitment to the defence of Gibraltar and to the continued maintenance of a permanent joint operating base there, and the Ministry of Defence will maintain in Gibraltar the facilities, forces and readiness levels required. This will involve reducing our land and estate holdings, transferring services to the Government of Gibraltar as agreed under the 2007 global agreement, and reducing the number of UK-based armed forces and civilian personnel deployed there.

The costs directly attributable to the provision of a Forward Mounting Base in Gibraltar are shown in the following table for the years 2006-07 to the most recent financial year and have been rounded to the nearest £ million. Figures before 2006-07 are not comparable due to changes in the Department's accounting rules.

	£ million
2006-07	68
2007-08	76
2008-09	70
2009-10	69
2010-11	75

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent reports he has received of territorial infringements in Gibraltarian waters; and if he will make a statement; [70879]

(2) how many territorial infringements in relation to Gibraltar were recorded by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [70882]

Peter Luff: The Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), last visited British Forces Gibraltar in February this year, and the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), did so in July. They were both briefed on incursions into British Gibraltar territorial waters, and how these are dealt with by Ministry of Defence and Government of Gibraltar assets, and diplomatically, as appropriate. Records of incursions have only been maintained since May 2009. Many of the incursions that occur are legal crossings constituting "innocent passage" as defined by the UN convention on the law of the sea. The number of serious illegal incursions is as follows:

Reporting period	*Serious incursions*
25 May 2009 to 31 December 2009	5
1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010	5
1 January 2011 to 31 August 2011	5

The most recent of these serious incidents occurred on 3 May 2011.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry if held for each individual transaction undertaken by Defence Travel using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71218]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* We do not plan to publish the details requested for each Government Procurement Card (GPC) transaction relating to Defence travel.

However, while we currently release details of expenditure on all GPC transactions over £25,000, as part of the Government's efforts to make the procurement process more transparent, we will shortly publish all GPC transactions for the current financial year of £500 and above. The level of detail will be restricted to protect the safety of some members of staff and some of our suppliers.

We intend to publish the details of transactions of £500 and above for the period April 2011 to June 2011 by the end of September 2011. We will publish data for the period July 2011 to September 2011 in October 2011, with data provided monthly in arrears thereafter.

India: Arms Trade

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to increase defence exports to India; and if he will make a statement. [71209]

Mr Gerald Howarth *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* We continue to support Defence exports in India through an active Defence diplomacy initiative, working closely with the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation. Exports help to build and enhance relations with allies, to support UK defence industry, and to reduce the cost of equipment for Britain's Armed Forces through extended production runs.

Defence Ministers travelling overseas will responsibly promote the best that Britain has to offer. Earlier this year I travelled to India where I had discussions on export opportunities. Defence Ministers have held further discussions on export opportunities such as Typhoon, Hawk and Global Combat Ship during the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition (DSEi) taking place 13-16 September 2011, at which meetings were held with the Indian delegations.

Israel: Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on leasing drones from Israel in each of the last five years; what the total operating time of such drones was in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [71580]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Hermes 450 Unmanned Air System (UAS) is operated by the British Army under a service provision contract awarded to Thales UK in 2007. The UAS assets are provided to Thales UK by Elbit Systems, a company based in Israel. Since 2007, Hermes 450 has flown the following number of hours on operations:

	Hours flown
2007	4,180
2008	12,576
2009	10,925
2010	14,698
2011 (up until September)	10,392

This activity has been undertaken at a cost of just over £125 million. I am withholding a breakdown of this cost as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of sorties flown by NATO forces in respect of Operation Ellamy were flown by each participating state. [71185]

Peter Luff: From the start of current operations in Libya up till 1 September 2011, NATO coalition aircraft have flown around 8,000 strike sorties of which the UK has flown around 1,500.

The UK does not comment on the operational details of allied nations' operations, which are a matter for the Governments concerned.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the United States Department of Defense regarding the exchange of one initial operational test and evaluation F-35B aircraft for an initial operational test and evaluation F-35C aircraft. [70847]

Peter Luff: The UK is committed to procuring three F-35B aircraft to conduct joint operational test and evaluation activity with the US armed forces. Since the decision taken, during last year's strategic defence and security review, to change to the carrier variant, the UK has agreed in principle with the US to exchange one of these aircraft for a USMC F-35C aircraft. However, the decision to implement the aircraft exchange remains subject to approval by HM Treasury and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Military Bases: Kirknewton

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on *(a)* the Military Civil Integration project, *(b)* the proposed construction of barracks at Kirknewton, West Lothian and *(c)* regional engagement. [70274]

Peter Luff: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of the Army moves. This work will also decide the infrastructure requirements, including at Kirknewton, needed to complete the re-basing. This detailed planning work will involve the appropriate and necessary engagement with partners such as the Scottish Government, West Lothian council and other Government Departments and agencies, including the appropriate level of consultation which will be required as we work through all options.

While our plans will continue to be driven by the military requirement, we will aim, where possible, to base Army personnel close to a number of units to enable them to change post while providing greater family stability and to be close enough to urban areas to allow their families to have easier access to jobs, schools, housing and other facilities.

This work will be supported by the Military Civil Integration (MCI). The key objectives of this approach are:

To identify and manage the impact of changes to the size, nature and geographical location of armed forces communities.

To provide partner organisations with a clear understanding of the specific needs of the armed forces communities in their area in order to factor these needs into long-term planning, and to enable the appropriate provision of local authority services.

To establish a programme of work that delivers mutual benefit and promotes economic and social integration between the armed forces communities and the wider civilian community.

In pursuing this policy, we will clearly aim to engage closely at both regional and local level in Scotland, where the MCI is conducted through the Firm Base Forum and a Governance Model that has been developed with the Scottish Government and the local authorities.

Navy

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what process the Royal Navy uses to dispose of surplus *(a)* spare parts, *(b)* specialist and general tools and *(c)* other surplus equipment; [70337]

(2) what the marketing value was of disposed assets belonging to the Royal Navy in the last year for which figures are available. [70339]

Peter Luff: When major assets such as ships and aircraft become surplus to requirements, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) first looks at selling to other governments. This has the potential benefit of strengthening international relationships and generating income that can be reinvested in defence. It also enables other governments to contribute to international security and could also provide UK industry with opportunities to undertake some of the regeneration work. If such a sale is not feasible, then other options are considered, such as sale to private commercial enterprises or even recycling.

When the MOD updates its equipment and stock, surplus and obsolete items (including spare parts) are sold through the MOD's own Disposal Services Authority (DSA), largely through a network of marketing agreements for the collection, storage, and specialist marketing and sale of surplus equipments, so as to achieve the best return for the taxpayer. Contractors are selected through open competition in compliance with European Union public procurement regulations.

The DSA marketing contractors will sell through target marketing to potential customers, direct negotiation or by competitive tender or auction including websites for purely commercially viable kit where this route to market will provide the optimum return. DSA are not made aware of the market value of equipment when it is declared as surplus but can set a minimum guaranteed price and a minimum selling price for major and unusual items when they are sold by the marketing contractors.

In the financial year 2010-11, the MOD achieved receipts of around £10 million from the sale of surplus naval equipment, including items such as capital ships, naval spares and scrap, small boats, clothing and vehicles.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Order of Battle is of the fleet. [71100]

Peter Luff: As at 7 September 2011, the Order of Battle for the fleet was as follows:

	Number
Landing Platform Helicopter	[1]2
Landing Platform Dock	2
T45	3
T42	4
T23	13
Hunt Class MCV	8
Sandown Class MCV	7
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels	3
Helicopter Offshore Patrol Vessels	1
P2000 Patrol Boats	18
Ocean Survey Vessels	1
Coastal Survey Vessels	3
Antarctic Patrol Ship	1
Ships Submersible Ballistic Nuclear	4
Ship Submersible Nuclear	7
Assault Helicopters—Sea King Mk4	3 Sqns
Search and Rescue—Sea King Mk5	2 Sqns
Airbourne Surveillance and Control—Sea King Mk7	3 Sqns
Anti Submarine and Anti Surface:	
Merlin Mk1 Lynx	4 Sqns
Mk3 and Mk8	3 Sqns
Battlefield Helicopters—Lynx Mk9	1 Sqn
Elementary Flying	3 Sqns
Beechcraft King Air 350ER Avenger	1 Sqn

[1] HMS Illustrious is now operating in the Landing Platform Helicopter role, as well as HMS Ocean.

For the Royal Fleet Auxiliary:

	Number
Fleet Tankers	2
Support Tankers	1
Small Fleet Tankers	2
Fleet Replenishment Ships	3
Landing Ship Dock	3
Aviation Training Ship	1
Forward Repair Ship	1

RAF Leuchars

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, what assessment he has made of the feasibility of basing at Leuchars the headquarters of the commanding officer of formation; what ceremonial roles that officer will still be required to carry out in Edinburgh; and what estimate he has made of the likely additional annual cost of the rebasing. [71399]

Peter Luff: Comprehensive planning work is now under way to draw up plans for the timing and sequencing of the Army moves.

This detailed planning work will involve, at the appropriate time, the necessary engagement with partners such as the Scottish Government, West Lothian council and other Government Departments and agencies, including the appropriate level of consultation which will be required as we work through all options. It is, therefore, too early to confirm our exact requirements for, or indeed the cost implications of, developing RAF Leuchars as a major Army base.

It is also too early to say what precise roles the commanding officer at Leuchars will undertake.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an operational runway is to be retained at Leuchars following the arrival of Army units and a formation headquarters. [71422]

Peter Luff: No decisions have yet been made regarding whether an operational runway will be retained at Leuchars following the arrival of Army units and a formation headquarters.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of contracts awarded to local firms by RAF Leuchars in each of the last 10 years. [71423]

Mr Robathan: The information concerning the contracts awarded to local firms by RAF Leuchars prior to financial year (FY) 2010-11 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The monetary value of contracts awarded to local firms by RAF Leuchars in FY 2010-11 was around £152,000.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to meet the Residents Action Force Leuchars to discuss the closure of RAF Leuchars. [71630]

Peter Luff: The Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), met with representatives of the Residents' Action Force Leuchars earlier this year to discuss issues around the basing review. While the Ministry of Defence fully recognises the need to engage with members of the Leuchars community, it is considered too early in the planning phase process to conduct any meaningful discussions at this stage; the detail and implications of basing two major units and a formation headquarters at Leuchars is still being worked through.

We will be establishing a comprehensive plan for engagement with those likely to be affected by the basing review. We do very much appreciate that the changes we have decided to make are going to have very significant implications for many and it is our firm intent to engage with those affected as we determine how to implement our decisions. This will include the appropriate and necessary engagement with partners such as the Scottish Government, Fife council and other Government Departments and agencies, as well as local communities.

RAF Lossiemouth: European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for a new Air Defence training area for the operation of the Typhoon Force from RAF Lossiemouth. [71348]

Peter Luff: There are currently no plans for a new air defence training area for the operation of Typhoon aircraft from RAF Lossiemouth. The Typhoon Force will continue to utilise extant training areas throughout the United Kingdom.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle to be fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [71581]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* It is planned that Watchkeeper will achieve full operating capability by December 2013.

Warships

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has made in respect of the protection of Royal Navy ships from running aground following the withdrawal of emergency towing vessels. [71954]

Peter Luff: In the event of an incident where a Royal Navy vessel requires recovery, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is able to deploy military and commercial assets to recover that vessel. Royal Navy personnel are trained to deal with a range of scenarios, such as towing other vessels, and if required, the MOD is able to place short notice contracts with industry for towing vessels from anywhere in the UK or indeed the world.

EDUCATION

Academies

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Young People's Learning Agency are assigned to work on the Academy Programme; and what the cost to the public purse of the (i) salaries, (ii) national insurance contributions, (iii) pension contributions and (iv) allowances in respect of such staff was in the latest period for which figures are available. [68072]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 September 2011]:* As at 30 June 2011 there were around 260 people (full time equivalents) in the Department for Education engaged directly in work on policy development and programme delivery related to Academy schools. In addition, there are around 117 staff (full time equivalents) in the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) involved in funding and supporting open Academies. There are other staff both in the Department and in the YPLA who make a contribution to policy development and programme delivery related to Academy schools as part of their wider role.

The latest period for which spending figures are available is the first quarter of this financial year, April to June 2011. The cost to the public purse for this period breaks down as follows.

Breakdown of costs April to June 2011

£

	DFE	*YPLA*
Salaries[1]	2,118,687	1,172,766
NI Contributions	179,633	104,795
Pension Contributions	425,923	231,088
Allowances	n/a	19,021
Total	2,724,243	1,527,670

[1] Salaries includes the cost of agency staff.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason local education authorities are responsible for the costs of maintaining the records of schools converting to academies. [68791]

Mr Gibb: When a school converts to academy status most of the responsibility for maintaining records falls to the academy. Local authorities will be responsible for retaining some records in relation to the statutory functions that they retain and which do not transfer to the academy, such as provision relating to SEN statemented pupils and home to school transport arrangements. The funding that UKs receive takes account of retained statutory responsibilities.

Capital Grant Scheme

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many local authorities will receive funding from his Department's capital grant to be allocated in the autumn; and if he will make a statement; [70667]

(2) how his Department will determine which local authorities will receive funding from its capital grant scheme; and if he will make a statement; [70668]

(3) if he will assess the effects of the timing of the autumn announcement of capital funding for local authorities from his Department for 2012-13 and 2013-14 on local authorities' ability to plan repair and rebuilding work in schools; and if he will make a statement. [70669]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* In July 2011 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced £500 million of extra funding for local authorities which are facing the greatest pressure from a continuing rise in pupil numbers, but have insufficient school places available. Most of this funding comes from efficiency savings from remaining BSF projects—all of which are continuing as planned. This money will be allocated in this financial year to the local authorities with the greatest demographic pressures so they can provide enough places, especially at primary schools, in 2012. Details of those allocations will be provided in the autumn. Although this is 2011-12 money, it will be delivered to local authorities as unringfenced grant, where they have no time-limit on spend.

Local authorities can invest this funding in additional places in all categories of school, considering where the additional places will best benefit the children of their area.

The Secretary of State also announced the establishment of a new, privately-financed, programme of school building which will address between 100 and 300 of the schools in the worst condition. We expect to announce in December 2011 the projects which will be taken forward.

We are currently consulting on the recommendations made in Sebastian James's review of education capital and will make further announcements on local capital allocations when we have considered the responses. We would expect all local authorities to maintain asset management plans, enabling effective targeting and timing of investment in the schools across their estate.

Children: Day Care

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* childminder services, *(b)* full day childcare settings and *(c)* out-of-school childcare settings (i) opened and (ii) closed in England in each year since 2005-06. [70254]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Miriam Rosen, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 8 September 2011:

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Ofsted has regulated and inspected childcare providers since September 2001, taking over that function from local authorities. Prior to 1 September 2008 Ofsted registered providers by type of care including full day care and out of school care. The Childcare Act 2006 which came into effect on 1 September 2008 changed the way in which childcare was registered and categorised. From this date Ofsted has held two registers, the Early Years Register for providers caring for children from birth until 31 August after their fifth birthday, and the Childcare Register for older children or where compulsory registration is not required. The Childcare Act also removed the different types of childcare and combined all types of care on non-domestic premises into one category 'childcare on non-domestic premises'. This includes full day care settings and out of school care but also has other types of care within it such as sessional pre-schools. The figures below therefore use the new categories from September 2008.

The information you have requested is provided in Tables A and B below. Figures are provided by financial year.

You requested the number of providers who have opened in each year since 2005-06. We have provided the number of those who have registered with us in each of the years since this date. This does not necessarily mean that these have opened for the first time. Some are registrations where providers change their legal entity, for example from an individual to a limited company, but still continue to provide childcare from the same address; or involve providers who are already registered with us on one register and who choose at a later date to register on the other register.

For 'closed' providers we have given the number of providers who resigned or had their registration with Ofsted cancelled in the year concerned. Some of these providers may have resigned from one register but continue to provide childcare in relation to the other register.

Please note that the same provider may appear in figures for both the full day care

and the out of school day care, up to and including the first part of the year 2008-09, This is because it was possible for the same provider to register to provide both day care types.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Sarah Teather, Minister of State for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Number of providers registering in each financial year

Provision type[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*1 April to 31 August 2008*	*1 September 2008*[2] *to 31 March 2009*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Childminder	11,205	10,728	8,973	3,833	4,556	7,148	7,547
Full day care	1,752	1,664	1,596	743	n/a	n/a	n/a
Out of school day care	1,906	1,728	1,609	691	n/a	n/a	n/a
Childcare on non-domestic premises	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,404	2,360	2,577

[1] Providers were only categorised as full or out of school day care settings until the start of the Early Years Foundation Stage on 1 September 2008. After this date all providers who would have been categorised as day care were categorised as childcare on non-domestic premises.

[2] Introduction of Early Years Foundation Stage.

Table B: Number of providers closing in each financial year

Provision type[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*1 April to 31 August 2008*	*1 September 2008*[2] *to 31 March 2009*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Childminder	10,427	12,943	14,578	4,859	6,942	10,587	8,186
Full day care	1,104	1,445	1,572	642	n/a	n/a	n/a
Out of school day care	1,261	1,813	1,735	721	n/a	n/a	n/a
Childcare on non-domestic premises	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,373	3,139	3,140

[1] Providers were only categorised as full or out of school day care settings until the start of the Early Years Foundation Stage on 1 September 2008, After this date all providers who would have been categorised as day care were categorised as childcare on non-domestic premises.

[2] Introduction of Early Years Foundation Stage.

Civil Servants

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many civil servants his Department employed in each of its three most senior grades *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [70587]

Tim Loughton: Over the period, headcount information for the whole of the Department and predecessor Department's senior civil service (SCS) is set out in the following table:

	Part (a)	*Part (b)*				
Grade band	*Department for Education (DfE)*	*DfE*	*Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)*	*DCSF*	*DCSF*	*Department for Education and Skills*
Data at:	*31 July 2011*	*31 March 2011*	*31 March 2010*	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2008*	*31 March 2007*
Permanent Secretary	1	1	1	1	1	1
SCS Band 3	4	4	4	3	4	4
SCS Band 2	21	21	24	23	20	25
SCS Band 1 and 1A	96	92	90	91	84	99
Total	122	118	119	118	109	129

Computer Science

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of the teaching and learning of computer science to the digital, creative and high-technology industries. [71448]

Mr Gibb: We are currently reviewing the national curriculum and the position of ICT, which includes elements of computer science.

In July 2010 the Government commissioned the Livingstone Hope Review of the skills shortages faced by the digital, creative and technological industries. This review made several recommendations including the need for rigorous teaching of computer science in schools and universities, which we are now considering.

Private Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the value of estimated tax receipts, calculated in accordance with the Green Book, in each public sector economic assessment of private finance initiative projects in procurement by his Department as of March 2011. [70920]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* When carrying out an appraisal of a project or policy, the Green Book sets out that options should be adjusted for material differences in tax. Differences in tax receipts between PFI and conventionally funded projects are considered as part of HM Treasury's Value for Money model which is run for each PFI project at the appraisal stage. The output of the model is one source of information that is used to inform the overall value for money assessment of the project. For those projects in procurement in March 2011 the percentage by which the public sector comparator is uplifted to reflect the additional tax take that accrues to the Government from the private finance option is given in the table.

These figures are for outline business cases at the pre-market appraisal stage and therefore are not used to assess tax takes from specific PFI providers after contracts have been signed.

Project	*Local authority*	*School name*	*Tax assumption (percentage)*
1	Birmingham	Waverley	6
2	Essex	Woodlands	6
3	Halton	The Grange	6
4	Islington	Paradise Park PRU (New River College)	6
5	Kingston Upon Hull	Andrew Marvell, Oakfield and Kingswood	5
6	Knowsley	SEN adjacent to Kirkby Sports Centre for Learning	6
7	Leicester	City of Leicester and Crown Hills	8
8	Nottingham	Farnborough. School and Technology College	6
9	Rochdale	Falinge Park High and Wardle	6
10	Salford	St Ambrose Barlow and St Patrick's RC High, The Swinton High/Moorside	6
11	Wolverhampton	Heath Park Business and Enterprise and North East Wolverhampton Academy	6

Redundancy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental body for which he is responsible has spent on redundancies since May 2010. [66342]

Tim Loughton: Information on approved releases made by the Education Family (the Department and its arm's length bodies) since May 2010 is set out in the following table:

Name	*Cost of staff released since May 2010 (£)*
Department for Education	9,300,000
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	2,500,000
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)	130,056
General Teaching Council for England (GTCE)	0
National College	651,948
Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)	10,099
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)	0
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)	1,400,000
Partnerships for Schools (PfS)	576,927
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)	6,000,000
School Food Trust (SFT)	323,772
Training and Development Agency (TDA)	1,900,000
Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)	0

Departmental Written Questions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of written questions tabled to him for answer on a named day did not receive a substantive answer on the day named for answer between *(a)* 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 and *(b)* 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011. [71126]

Tim Loughton: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Between 27 May 2010 and 19 July 2011 the Department received 1,170 named day parliamentary questions, out of which 13% were answered on the specified named day. Between 9 March 2011 and 19 July 2011 the

Department received 350 named day parliamentary questions, out of which 27% were answered on the specified named day.

The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member and ordinary questions within five sitting days. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will usually be preferable to provide a full answer a few days late than to provide an incomplete answer.

Education Maintenance Allowance: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in the City of York received education maintenance allowance in each year since 2004-05. [71467]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for York Central with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Finance

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school education in (i) South Tyneside, (ii) the North East and (iii) nationwide in 2010. [70491]

Mr Gibb: The available information on how much was spent is for 2009-10 and is shown as follows. The information for 2010-11 is currently being collected and will be available in January 2012.

		£
	Primary	*Secondary*
England	15,490,397,855	15,635,929,285
North East	758,257,552	804,772,400
South Tyneside	45,180,742	48,981,610

Note:
The data are taken from the local authorities section 251 Outturn statement for 2009-10.

Education: Young People

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the local education authority net revenue expenditure per head of population aged between 14 and 19 was in cash terms for each London borough in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [71682]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Department does not hold this information.

Family Intervention Programme

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff were employed in each Family Intervention Project in each year since the establishment of the projects. [72037]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect this information.

GCSE

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many pupils achieved at least five GCSEs grades A* to C in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997; [70423]

(2) how many pupils achieved GCSEs grades A* to C including English and Maths in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997. [70424]

Mr Gibb: The information for 1997 and 2005 to 2010 is provided in the following table. Figures for 1998 to 2004 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Jarrow Constituency		*South Tyneside*		*North East*		*England*	
	Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A to C*	*Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C including English and mathematics*	*Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C*	*Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C including English and mathematics*	*Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C*	*Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C including English and mathematics*	*Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C*	*Number of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C including English and mathematics*
1997	389	275	668	512	11,492	8,787	264,910	213,244
2005	505	317	1,000	663	16,616	11,805	361,551	284,209
2006	543	370	1,112	791	18,198	12,804	382,663	296,077
2007	629	425	1,242	878	19,707	13,607	402,411	303,535
2008	674	429	1,268	834	21,347	14,423	426,732	311,076
2009	741	448	1,487	917	22,347	14,761	444,390	316,104
2010	775	529	1,529	957	23,471	15,608	482,225	341,980

Notes:
1. Figures in the table include GCSE and equivalents.
2. Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside and North East figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas.
3. Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside and North East figures cover all maintained schools. England figure includes all participating schools.
4. 2005-2010 figures based on pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the academic year. 1997 figures based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.
5. Figures are derived from final Secondary School Performance Tables data.

GCSE: Home Education

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps the Government is taking to ensure that home-educated children have access to GCSE examination centres. [71415]

Mr Gibb: We recognise that it is not always easy for home-educated children to find suitable exam centres. While it is rightly a matter for an individual school or college as to whether to provide facilities for home-educated children to sit their exams, we encourage them to do so; and we provide training, advice and support to exam officers accordingly. We also welcome the work that awarding bodies do to promote such access.

Government Buying Standards

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the reasons were for excluding his Department from the adoption of Government Buying Standards. [71787]

Tim Loughton: The Department fully complies with most of the Government Buying Standards, however, we will continue to apply our own nutritional standards to the Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services as they are equal to or better than those in the Government Standard.

Numeracy

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that children finish education functionally numerate; and if he will make a statement; [70780]

(2) what steps he is taking to raise levels of basic numeracy and personal finance capability in education. [70781]

Mr Gibb: A sound understanding of mathematics enhances pupils' employment prospects and gives them skills that can be used in all aspects of life. Numeracy is the core foundation of mathematics.

Good quality teaching is fundamental to improving engagement and achievement in mathematics. We will strengthen the teaching of mathematics by recruiting more high quality graduates, improving initial teacher training to ensure that all newly qualified teachers have the skills to teach well, improving the skills of existing teachers through good quality continuing professional development for mathematics teachers. We will also support initiatives to increase the number of specialist mathematics and science teachers.

We are currently undertaking a review of the national curriculum in order to develop a curriculum that provides children with the essential knowledge needed when they leave school. Personal finance capability will be considered as part of that review. Young people also learn how to manage personal finance and understand a range financial products and services through the Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education programmes of study at Key Stages 3 and 4.

It is our intention that all young people leave school or college with good English and maths skills, ideally the English and maths GCSE A*-C. In taking forward the recommendations in Alison Wolfs Review of Vocational Education we are investigating how English and maths should be part of an overall study programme for 16 to 18-year-olds who have not yet achieved GCSE A*-C in English and/or maths.

Schools: Buildings

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on school buildings in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) nationwide in each year since 1997. [70422]

Mr Gibb: Complete information for capital allocations at constituency level, and by phase of education, is not held centrally. This information is held at local level. Capital allocations held centrally are as follows:

Capital allocations

£ million

		Of which:	
	England	*North East*	*South Tyneside*
1997-98	650.1	34.9	1.5
1998-99	1,027.0	53.9	2.5
1999-2000	1,348.8	81.5	3.4
2000-01	2,541.1	119.8	5.7
2001-02	2,501.5	200.6	5.6
2002-03	2,983.4	178.8	9.2
2003-04	4,085.5	232.0	8.0
2004-05	4,173.7	223.2	23.9
2005-06	4,234.6	263.4	39.2
2006-07	3,777.7	147.1	5.6
2007-08	4,860.5	342.7	39.1
2008-09	4,943.7	388.4	43.9
2009-10	7,215.6	560.5	82.9
2010-11	7,244.0	551.0	37.4

Notes:

1. Capital allocations include capital grant, supported borrowing, and PFI credits.

2. PFI Credits are counted in the year of financial close, although the revenue support begins once the school asset comes into use. This, and the early use of supported borrowing allocations in Building Schools for the Future projects, accounts for the uneven run of figures in the table.

3. Local authorities in the North East are: Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside, Stockton-on-Tees, and Sunderland.

Please see the following breakdown of capital spend year on year from 2001-02 onwards. We do not have figures for earlier years:

£ million

		Of which:	
	Total	*North East*	*South Tyneside*
2001-02	3.3	0.3	0
2002-03	60.6	11.9	0
2003-04	128.5	20.4	0
2004-05	219.1	6.4	0
2005-06	225.8	1.4	0
2006-07	358.9	9.4	0
2007-08	401.6	28.9	0
2008-09	384.8	32.0	0
2009-10	370.2	15.7	0
2010-11	182.6	0.9	0

Schools: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his Department allocated to the City of York Council for school capital spending in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* each year since; [71465]

(2) what capital funding was allocated by his Department to schools in the City of York in each year since 2003. [71466]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows allocations of central capital support to York local authority and its schools since 1996-97.

	£ million
1996-97	0.8
1997-98	1.3
1998-99	1.8
1999-2000	4.5
2000-01	7.4
2001-02	4.8
2002-03	9.2
2003-04	11.1
2004-05	[1]26.8
2005-06	10.7
2006-07	23.0
2007-08	19.3
2008-09	26.7
2009-10	23.1
2010-11	18
2011-12	[2]6.2

[1] Of which £15.4 million of PFI credits.

[2] Provisional.

Schools: Coventry

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools will visit Richard Lee primary school in Coventry. [71207]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools met the right hon. Member for Coventry North East in July 2011 to discuss the capital needs of Richard Lee primary school. Since then the Secretary of State for Education has announced further support for schools with the greatest need. A new, privately-financed programme of school building (the Priority School Building programme) will address between 100 and 300 of the schools in the worst condition.

Schools: Hampshire

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the guaranteed level of funding per pupil was for *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools in Hampshire in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the guaranteed level of funding will be in 2011-12. [70078]

Mr Gibb: The Guaranteed Unit of Funding for Hampshire in 2011-12 is £4,647.63 per pupil. The Department for Education allocates this funding to Hampshire county council and it is for the authority to delegate this funding to the schools in their area through their local funding formula to meet the individual needs and pressures of their schools. It also pays for the free entitlement to early education for three and four-year-olds, and for services retained by the local authority, such as support for High Needs pupils.

The level of funding of the pupil premium in 2011-12 is £430 per pupil for those pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, £430 per pupil for looked after children and £200 per pupil for service children. According to the figures recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Hampshire will receive £8.5 million for the pupil premium.

Schools: Newton Abbot

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average class size for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools was in Newton Abbot constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [71265]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Average class size state-funded primary and secondary schools[1, 2, 3]: Classes as taught[4]

	Newton Abbot parliamentary constituency—January 2011
State-funded primary[1, 2]	26.8
State-funded secondary[1, 3]	20.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes primary academies

[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies (including all-through academies).

[4] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

Source:
School Census

Schools: Swimming

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to promote swimming in schools. [71628]

Mr Gibb: Swimming is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum for Physical Education in primary schools. The current requirement is that every pupil must be able to swim 25 metres, unaided and in a recognised stroke, and demonstrate an understanding of water safety, by the end of Key Stage 2. The remit for the review of the National Curriculum, which is now under way, makes clear that this requirement will remain.

Sixth Form Colleges

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students are entering sixth form in each school and college in London in 2011-12. [71247]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* Information on the number of students entering sixth form in 2011/12 is not yet available for either schools or colleges.

Data will be collected through the School Census, and the Individualised Learner Record, on the number of students participating in sixth forms in 2011/12. This will be available from January 2012.

Social Workers

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of children's social workers employed by each local authority on 1 April in each of the last five financial years were no longer employed by the end of that financial year; [71419]

(2) how many qualified children's social workers were employed by each local authority on 1 April in each of the last five years. [71420]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not currently collect this information from local authorities. Each local authority maintains its own data on the number of social workers and on turnover. Following the recommendation in the Munro review about the need for better data, both nationally and locally, there are plans to publish a new suite of nationally collected performance information by May 2012.

Teachers: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local authority schools in the City of York in each year since 1996; [71460]

(2) what the average pupil to teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in York in each year since 1996. [71461]

Mr Gibb: York became a new local authority on 1 April 1997 and therefore the information requested is not available for 1996.

The information requested for full-time equivalent teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in 1997, 2001 to 2009 is published in tables 19, 25 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

The equivalent information requested for 1998 to 2000 is published in tables 18, 23 and 24 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios) January 2007 (Revised)" published on 27 September 2007. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/SFR29_2007_FinalTables18-25.xls

The information requested for full-time equivalent teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in 2010 is published in tables 19, 25 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios) January 2010" published on 26 May 2010. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000927/index.shtml

The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in York local authority, in each January, 1997 to 2010 and November 2010.

Pupil:teacher ratios (PTRs)[1] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools. Years: each January, 1997 to 2010 and November 2010. Coverage: York local authority

	York	
	Primary	Secondary
January		
1997	24.3	16.3
1998	24.6	16.2
1999	23.5	16.7
2000	24.6	18.4
2001	22.9	16.6
2002	22.0	16.0
2003	22.0	16.0
2004	22.7	16.0
2005	23.0	15.6
2006	21.7	15.9
2007	21.7	16.3
2008	21.4	15.7
2009	21.6	15.7
2010	21.8	15.3
November		
2010	24.6	16.0

[1] The January 2010 PTRs are calculated by dividing the total FTE number of sole registered pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools. November 2010 figures are calculated using the FTE number of sole and dual registered pupils on roll.

Source:
School Census

November 2010 data from the new School Workforce Census (SWF) also available in the "Publication's Underlying Data" are available in the first zipped archive from the Statistical First Release "School Workforce in England November 2010 (Provisional)". The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

November 2010 full-time equivalent (FTE) support staff numbers are not available because the actual hours that support staff worked were not collected and these figures are required to calculate the FTE. The November 2011 SWF will include this information.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the gross average salary of a full-time teacher in local authority schools in the City of York was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1996-97. [71463]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the gross average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers in service in local authority maintained schools by cash terms and real terms for York local authority, in each March, 1997 to 2009 and November 2010.

Average salary of full-time regular teachers[1] in service in local authority maintained schools in cash and real terms[2], years: March 1997 to March 2009[3] and November 2010; coverage: York local authority

£

	York local authority	
	Cash terms	Real terms
As at March:		
1997[4]	22,600	30,800
1998[4]	23,200	30,900
1999[4]	24,100	31,400
2000[4]	24,900	31,900
2001[4]	26,900	33,900

Average salary of full-time regular teachers[1] in service in local authority maintained schools in cash and real terms[2], years: March 1997 to March 2009[3] and November 2010; coverage: York local authority

£

	York local authority	
	Cash terms	*Real terms*
2002[4]	27,800	34,300
2003[4]	29,700	35,400
2004[4]	30,600	35,500
2005[4]	32,100	36,300
2006[4]	33,100	36,800
2007[4]	34,300	36,900
2008[4]	[5]—	[5]—
2009[3,4]	35,800	36,400
As at November:		
2010[6]	37,600	37,600

[1] Teachers of all grades including school leadership.
[2] Real terms figures calculated at 2009-10 prices using 28 June 2011 GDP deflators. These are available from the following HM treasury web link together with further information about the methodology employed: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_index.htm
[3] Provisional.
[4] Database of School Records. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
[5] Figures are not sufficiently reliable.
[6] Source: School Workforce Census. Includes academies and city technology colleges.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.

Teachers: Newton Abbot

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers were employed in Newton Abbot constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [71264]

Mr Gibb: There were 280 full-time equivalent regular teachers in local authority maintained primary schools and 330 in secondary schools in Newton Abbot constituency in November 2010. The source of data provision is the November 2010 School Workforce Census and figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Further school workforce statistics are available from the Statistical First Release 'School Workforce In England, November 2010' which is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Teachers: Sick Leave

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many days there were of sickness absence by teaching staff in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in England on average per employee in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [70585]

Mr Gibb: In the academic year 2009-10 an average of 3.7 days sickness absence was taken by each teacher employed in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools. The equivalent figure for secondary schools was 4.5 days. The overall figure for teachers in all schools was 4.2 days. Teachers included were those employed on a contract of at least 28 days during the period.

The information provided is from the School Workforce Census that was collected for the first time in November 2010 and provides absence data in respect of the academic year 2009-10. The information is not available broken down by phase of education for the calendar years 2009 and 2010 or any earlier years.

Further information on teacher sickness absence including the historical comparisons that are available is published in table 18 of School Workforce in England, November 2010 (Provisional) Statistical First Release which is available at the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/a00196713/school-workforce-sfr

Teachers: Training

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what algorithm the Training and Development Agency uses to allocate quotas for initial teacher training places to training institutions. [71079]

Mr Gibb: The allocations by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) are based on the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) targets published by the Department for Education. For 2011/12, the 2010/11 baseline allocations were adjusted in response to the following factors: previous recruitment to ITT courses against targets over the past three years; the proportion of trainee teachers who have found employment as a teacher; and the ITT provider's Ofsted inspection reports and ratings.

Full details of the TDA's methodology will be published on the agency's website this month along with the finalised allocations for 2011/12.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1281-3W, on higher education: teachers, how many and what proportion of the mainstream initial teacher training places allocated to higher education institutions were *(a)* postgraduate courses and *(b)* undergraduate courses (i) at each higher education institution and (ii) in total in academic year (A) 2009-10, (B) 2010-11 and (C) 2011-12. [71444]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* The totals for all higher education institutions in England are shown in the following table:

Allocated postgraduate and undergraduate initial teacher training places—Academic years: 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12: Coverage: England

	AY 2009/10	*AY 2010/11*	*AY 2011/12*
Number of places			
Postgraduate	23,189	23,564	21,273
Undergraduate	7,539	7,453	7,106
Total	30,728	31,017	28,379
Percentage of total			
Postgraduate	75	76	75
Undergraduate	25	24	25

Notes:
1. Correct as at 8 September 2011 (2011/12 allocations are subject to further change).
2. Allocated places exclude continuer places for multiple year courses.
3. Excludes postgraduate places allocated to school-centred initial teacher training providers, employment-based programmes and teach first places.
4. 2011/12 figures now reflect revisions as providers seek to align allocated numbers with recruitment activity. 2010/11 figures incorporate minor revisions.
Source:
TDA

A table showing the number of places allocated to each higher education institution by the Training and Development Agency for Schools in academic years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 has been placed in the House Libraries.

Training and Development Agency: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much mainstream grant funding was allocated by the Training and Development Agency for Schools to *(a)* the University of York and *(b)* York St John University in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [71464]

Mr Gibb: The Training and Development Agency for Schools allocated mainstream grant funding as follows to:

(a) The University of York: (i) £453,332 in 1996-97 and (ii) £708,830 in 2011/12; and

(b) York St John University: (i) £2,120,686 in 1996-97 and (ii) £3,386,370 in 2011/12.

University Technical Colleges

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the decision-making process is for the assessment of university technical college bids. [71446]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Applications to establish a university technical college from September 2012 which were received by the application deadline of 1 June 2011 are being assessed by the Department against the published assessment criteria. These criteria relate to the educational vision and identity of the university technical college, the soundness of the educational plan, evidence of demand, organisational capability and capacity, the suitability of the proposed premises, and cost and financial viability. As part of the assessment process, a number of applicants were interviewed during August, and the decision on which UTC applications are approved to move to the next stage of development will be made around the end of September.

University Technical Colleges

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to announce his decision on the university technical college bids. [71447]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* The Department is still in the process of assessing the applications it has received to establish university technical colleges. An announcement will be made around the end of September about those that are approved to move to the next stage of development.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to questions 68227, on care placements, and 68230, on special guardianship, tabled by the hon. Member for Chesterfield on 18 July 2011 for answer on 5 September. [71417]

Tim Loughton: The relevant information is as follows:

PQ 68227 was answered on 12 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 984W.

PQ 68230 was answered on 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 780W.

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to questions 68881, on looked after children, and 68882, on adoption, tabled by the hon. Member for Chesterfield on 20 July 2011 for answer on 6 September. [71418]

Tim Loughton: The relevant information is as follows:

PQ 68881 was answered on 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 900W.

PQ 68882 was answered on 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 881W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ethiopia: Resettlement

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the Government of Ethiopia's villagization policy. [70683]

Mr O'Brien: In February 2011, officials from DFID Ethiopia participated in a multi-agency assessment of villagisation (now officially known as the Commune programme) in the Gambella region of Ethiopia. The findings were captured in a report, which was shared with the Government of Ethiopia.

The Department for International Development (DFID) holds a draft copy of the Government of Ethiopia's Commune Development Programme Plan for the Developing Regional States. This was received upon its release in March 2011. A final version of the plan has not been released.

Food Supply

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had recent discussions with the Committee on World Food Security on the implementation of the recommendations of the report, The Future of Food and Farming. [71713]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) in partnership with the foresight team will be hosting a side event at 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome on Wednesday, 19 October. The side event will focus on the implementation of the report, The Future of Food and Farming', with recommendations submitted to the CFS for consideration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Armed Conflict

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of stocks of chemical weapons held in Libya before the start of the recent uprising against Colonel Gaddafi. [70636]

Alistair Burt: Libya abandoned its weapons of mass destruction programme in 2003 and destroyed all its declared chemical weapons munitions (unfilled) by 1 March 2004. By the end of February 2011, Libya had also destroyed 54% of its chemical agent stocks and 39% of its precursor stocks.

We have regularly raised with the National Transitional Council the importance of ensuring that the site where the stocks are located remains secured and of resuming destruction. We are also in close touch with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which has responsibility for international verification of compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Bahrain: Health Professions

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the recent trials of medical staff in Bahrain; and if he will make a statement. [71989]

Alistair Burt: I was pleased to hear on 7 September about the release on bail of the medical staff that were still being detained. I understand the final hearing will be on 29 September and hope that due process is being followed fully and transparently.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has stressed the need for Bahrain to meet all its human rights obligations and our Ambassador in Bahrain raised the specific case of the medical personnel with the Bahraini Minister of Justice in May. Staff from our embassy in Bahrain, along with other international colleagues, have attended the key trials.

Burma: Human Rights

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the establishment of a human rights commission in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [71564]

Alistair Burt: In advance of the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of human rights in Burma in January, the UK asked the Burmese Government to explain whether the proposed National Human Rights Commission would operate with genuine independence and whether international monitors would be permitted to assess its operation, Burma's report to the Human Rights Council stated that an organisation will "emerge eventually" in accord with Paris Principles.

The Burmese authorities announced the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission on 5 September. Our embassy is seeking to meet with members of the Commission at the earliest opportunity. We are clear that any such organisation should be independent and operate firmly in line with Paris Principles.

Burma: Political Prisoners

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ASEAN on political prisoners in Burma. [71563]

Alistair Burt: The release of all political prisoners in Burma remains a long-standing expectation of the international community. Aung San Suu Kyi's meeting with the Burmese president on 19 August, and the proposal raised in Burma's Parliament on 26 August for a general amnesty, are encouraging developments. However, the international community is watching closely for tangible outcomes, including the release of all political prisoners.

We raise the need for to release political prisoners at every opportunity with the Burmese Government. It is an issue that we discuss in our systematic engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) governments on how to promote genuine progress in Burma. Over recent weeks we have discussed Burma with the governments of the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore as well as the ASEAN secretariat. We are working to secure the strongest possible resolution on Burma at the forthcoming UN General Assembly, reflecting our concerns, including the plight of political prisoners.

China

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the influence of the People's Republic of China in the Indian Ocean and *(b)* the effect of such influence on British interests. [72065]

Alistair Burt: Our assessment is that China is developing its economic and political relations with countries surrounding the Indian ocean, including through investments and infrastructure projects. The 2010 White Paper on 'China's National Defence' stated that the Chinese Navy had been developing its capabilities to conduct operations in distant waters.

It is important for UK interests that China uses its growing economic, political and military weight in a responsible manner, in line with international norms and global interests. For example, we welcome China's constructive support for multilateral anti-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden. We continue to step up our engagement with China through political, diplomatic and military channels on the full range of foreign and security policy issues. We expect, for example, to hold an official-level dialogue with China on South Asia issues soon.

Croatia: EU Enlargement

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what timetable he has set for the ratification by Parliament of Croatia's accession to the EU. [71734]

Mr Lidington: The ECOFIN Council of 12 July 2011 formally closed Croatia's EU accession negotiations. Negotiations on the drafting of the Accession treaty are expected to be concluded in time for signature before the end of 2011. The anticipated date of Croatia's accession is 1 July 2013, on which day the treaty shall enter into force providing that all 27 member states' and Croatia's instruments of ratification have been deposited before that date. .

The provisions of the EU Act 2011 will apply to the UK's domestic ratification procedures. This Act requires that the UK cannot ratify the treaty unless a statement has been made in accordance with Section 5 of the Act, the treaty has been approved by an Act of Parliament and the referendum condition or exemption condition is met. The required statement under Section 5 of the Act as to whether the treaty falls within Section 4 must be made within two months of the date when the Accession Treaty is agreed. We therefore expect it to be made within two months of signature of the Accession treaty, expected in December 2011. The Government will introduce a Bill to ratify the Accession treaty when parliamentary time allows.

Libya: Human Rights

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the human rights of ethnic minorities in Libya are protected during the period of transition to the new government. [71258]

Alistair Burt: The UK continues to raise with the National Transitional Council (NTC) the importance of protecting the rights of ethnic minorities in Libya, especially the Tuareg, Amazigh and Tebu. The UK missions in Tripoli and Benghazi have met representatives of minority communities on the NTC. The NTC has made clear its commitment to international humanitarian and human rights law. Article 6 of the NTC's Draft Constitutional Declaration states that 'all Libyans are equal before the law, enjoy equal civil and political rights and equal opportunities, have equal duties and public responsibilities, and are not discriminated against because of religion, faith, language, wealth, gender, ancestry, political views, social status or tribal, group or family affiliation'. Article 8 of the same document sets out that the Libyan state will guarantee equal opportunities to all citizens, including the provision of adequate living standards and right to work, education, healthcare and social security for every citizen. We welcome this emphasis and the NTC's commitment, and we will continue to raise the issue of minority rights. We will also explore the scope for provision of international support and expertise to the NTC in this area.

Iraq: Armed Conflict

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Turkish and Iranian governments on military action in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. [71814]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 14 September 2011]:* It is for the Government of Iraq to decide whether to make representations to the Governments of Turkey and Iran over military actions against the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and PJAK (Free Life Party of Kurdistan) within Iraq's borders. We have consistently called for co-operation with the Governments of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region over the threat in the border areas, and have expressed our concern about indiscriminate Iranian shelling.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Israel over *(a)* the expansion of illegal settlements on the west bank, *(b)* the demolition of Palestinian homes on the west bank and *(c)* the demolition of Palestinian homes in east Jerusalem; and if he will make a statement. [72062]

Alistair Burt: Our policy on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law. We look to the Government of Israel to take all necessary steps to prevent settlement construction.

Most recently, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), issued the following statement on UK policy on settlements on 16 August:

> "I condemn the decision of the Israeli Government to build 277 housing units in the illegal West Bank settlement of Ariel, 16 kilometres inside the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Israel has again ignored the calls of the international community to refrain from actions which make a return to negotiations more difficult. These repeated actions, illegal under international law, undermine confidence and threaten a two state solution."

The focus between the Israelis and the Palestinians should be on confidence-building steps with the aim of giving momentum to restarting negotiations. In this respect, house demolitions or the eviction of Palestinians from their homes are deeply unhelpful and cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians. We are aware that there has been an increase in demolitions in recent months, we continue to monitor the situation closely and issue statements when necessary.

UK Membership of EU

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the total annual cost of the UK's membership of the EU. [70998]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The latest forecast of the UK's contributions to the EU budget is set out in Table 2.16 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook of March 2011. This forecast will be updated in the autumn.

UN World Conference Against Racism

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's planned approach is regarding the UN World Conference Against Racism in September 2011. [70312]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I will reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from Alistair Burt to Stephen Twigg:

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has today informed the House by written ministerial statement that the Government will not attend the high-level meeting to commemorate the

10th anniversary of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism on 22 September at the United Nations in New York.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the UN World Conference Against Racism in September 2011. [70313]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has today informed the House by written ministerial statement that the Government will not attend the high-level meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism on 22 September at the United Nations in New York.

The Secretary of State has not spoken with his EU counterparts about the September meeting. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials held regular discussions with their EU colleagues about the meeting and kept the Secretary of State fully updated on developments.

TRANSPORT

Lane Rental

14. **Bob Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on congestion of the implementation of lane rental proposals. [71842]

15. **Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on congestion of the implementation of lane rental proposals. [71843]

Norman Baker: Street works are a significant cause of delay and disruption, contributing to congestion that is estimated to cost over £4 billion a year. A consultation is under way on regulations to enable a small number of targeted pilot schemes to be brought forward, which would inform future assessments of whether lane rental could usefully play a wider role in managing congestion.

Rail Travel

16. **Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of recent trends in levels of rail travel. [71844]

Mrs Villiers: Annual statistics for the year ending March 2011 published by the Office of Rail Regulation show that passenger travel rose during the year to reach an overall, all time high of 33.6 billion passenger miles. The number of rail journeys has been rising steadily each year since privatisation with only one slight drop in the total during 2009. Since then the upward trend has resumed to reach a total of 1.4 billion journeys undertaken. Long-distance rail travel has nearly doubled since privatisation.

Inland Waterways: Freight

17. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of freight carried on inland waterways. [71845]

Mike Penning: We continue to support the shift of freight from road to inland waterways, primarily through the Department's Mode Shift Revenue Support scheme. This assists companies with the operating costs of transporting freight by inland waterway, where this is more expensive than road and where there are environmental benefits (eg: lower carbon emissions).

Smart Ticketing

18. **Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with transport operators on the expansion of smart ticketing technologies. [71846]

Norman Baker: My officials and I meet regularly with transport operators to discuss the roll-out of smart ticketing technologies.

The Government are strongly committed to rolling out smart and integrated ticketing as there are huge potential benefits for passengers, local authorities and operators. That is why we have committed to delivering, with operators and public sector bodies, the infrastructure to enable most public transport journeys to be undertaken using smart ticketing by December 2014.

Bus Services: Young People

19. **Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of bus service reductions on young people; and if he will make a statement. [71847]

Norman Baker: I am aware that, as a result of local decisions, in some areas of the country bus services are being reduced.

Changes to services are a matter for bus operators and local transport authorities. While I am monitoring the overall impact, the Government do not and cannot make an assessment of every individual change.

I would encourage all local authorities to ensure young people's ability to access education and leisure activities is not compromised. Local education authorities have statutory duties regarding travel to school—students must not be prevented from attending education because there is no bus service or the fare is unaffordable.

Driving: Sleep Apnoea

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will meet Ms Carol Upcraft to discuss her campaign to raise awareness about the contribution of sleep apnoea to road accidents. [70328]

Mike Penning: The Department is committed to raising awareness of obstructive sleep apnoea and driving. I would be happy to meet with the hon. Member and his constituent, Ms Carol Upcraft, to discuss her campaign.

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of road accidents where sleep apnoea was attributed as a cause in the last three years. [70379]

Mike Penning: Information on the number of injuries resulting from reported road accidents caused by drivers with specific medical conditions is not collected.

The number of injury road accidents in Great Britain for which a police officer attended the scene and recorded the contributory factor 'Fatigue' was 1,812 in 2008, 1,806 in 2009 and 1,766 in 2010.

The contributory factor 'Fatigue' is recorded in accidents in which the police officer's opinion at the time of reporting was that the driver/rider was unable to drive effectively or perceive hazards due to being too tired. This may or may not be due to a specific medical condition.

High Speed Trains: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the potential *(a)* economic and *(b)* environmental benefits of including Scotland in the national high speed rail network. [71834]

Mr Philip Hammond: Our vision is for a truly national high speed rail network. The proposals on which we are currently consulting include through-running services to Scotland, delivering significant journey time savings.

If the Government makes the decision to progress the HS2 project, it will be delivered in phases. Phase 1, London to the West Midlands, phase 2 to Manchester and Leeds. I have indicated to the Scottish Government that once we have completed the legislative process for phase 2 it will be appropriate for us to engage with the Scottish Government on options future development of the network to Scotland.

Large Goods Vehicles: Sleep Apnoea

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to raise awareness within the road haulage industry of the risks associated with undiagnosed sleep apnoea. [70327]

Mike Penning: The Department is committed to identifying opportunities to raise awareness of obstructive sleep apnoea. A number of initiatives are ongoing with commercial drivers including questioning them directly about it as part of their compulsory medicals for driver licensing purposes and sending our 'Tiredness Can Kill' leaflet to raise awareness of the condition with them and their employers.

Network Rail: Finance

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with Network Rail *(a)* the introduction of a fair payments policy and *(b)* the reduction of its current 60-day payment terms. [72025]

Mrs Villiers: This is an operational matter for Network Rail and not something in which the Government have the power to intervene.

Railways: Manufacturing Industries

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessments his Department has made of the risks to the train building supply chain in the UK since January 2011; and what support his Department *(a)* has and *(b)* plans to provide to small and medium-sized enterprises in the train building industry in the East Midlands. [71163]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessments have been carried out. However on 5 July the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), created an Economic Response Task Force to fully understand and mitigate the economic impact of job losses at Bombardier, its supply chain and the local communities.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), have asked their officials to work together with the sector and key delivery partners, such as UK Trade and Investment, to support the train manufacturing sector and the wider rail supply chain in securing more sustainable UK jobs through clearly identified business opportunities such as the Intercity Express programme, Crossrail and High Speed 2.

Additionally the Department's Solution's for Business offers a range of publically funded products and services designed to help businesses to overcome key challenges and—through UK Trade and Investment—explore export opportunities.

Road Traffic

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the economic costs of congestion on the road network. [71799]

Mike Penning: The 2006 Eddington Study estimated that, using the Department for Transport's National Transport Model, the direct costs of congestion to business could rise by £10 billion to £12 billion from 2003 to 2025 (in 2002 prices). Adding in the value of the lost time experienced by other travellers raises this figure to £23 billion to £24 billion per annum. This report is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/researchannexes/

The following table provides estimates of the cost of congestion to business and other travellers in lost time in 2003 (in 2002 prices) in each English region.

Estimated cost of congestion by English region, 2003, at 2002 prices

Region	*£ billion*
North-east	1.0
Yorks and Humber	1.7
East midlands	0.9
Eastern England	1.2
South-east	1.9
London	5.3
South-west	0.7

Estimated cost of congestion by English region, 2003, at 2002 prices

Region	*£ billion*
West midlands	1.9
North-west	1.9
England total	16.5

These figures are based on the difference between the actual time taken to make a journey and the time that would be taken under theoretical 'free-flow' conditions. They do not necessarily represent the net benefit that would result from removing congestion.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by how much his Department expects traffic numbers on the major road network to change between 2011 and *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2030 and *(c)* 2040. [71975]

Mike Penning: The latest estimate of outturn traffic on all major roads for Great Britain in 2010 is 197.4 billion vehicle miles:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/tra0102

The latest published forecasts from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model (NTM) can be found at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/forecasts2009/index.html

Current forecasts from the NTM show traffic on all major roads in Great Britain increasing by 24% in the period 2010-25 and by 40% in the period 2010-35.

Roads: Accidents

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the causes of road accidents. [70326]

Mike Penning: It is not possible to identify the cause of reported personal injury road accidents from data collected through STATS19. However, Department for Transport collects statistics on contributory factors to accidents reported by the attending police officer.

Information on reported contributory factors to road accidents, for Great Britain in 2009, can be found in Table 4a of Article 4 ('Contributory factors to reported road accidents') in our annual report, 'Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2009'. A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House, and it can also be found using the following link:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/rrcgb2009.html

The contributory factor article for reported accidents in Great Britain in 2010 will be published at the end of September 2011.

Please note that contributory factors are reported only for injury road accidents where a police officer attended the scene and reported at least one contributory factor. These factors are largely subjective, reflecting the attending officer's opinion at the time of reporting. It is recognised that subsequent inquires could lead to the reporting officer changing his/her opinion.

It is important to note that it may be difficult for a police officer, attending the scene after an accident has occurred, to identify certain factors that may have contributed to a cause of an accident.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the financial model used to assess bids for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [65191]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 11 July 2011]:* An unpopulated blank template of the financial model has been published on the DFT website.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations govern the *(a)* Intercity Express Programme and *(b)* Thameslink Rolling Stock procurements. [71816]

Mrs Villiers: The Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 govern both the Intercity Express Programme and Thameslink rolling stock procurements.

CABINET OFFICE

Sky TV

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010. [67556]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has spent £6,887 on subscriptions to Sky TV since May 2010.

The Emergency Planning College (EPC) in York has separate arrangements in place and pays for a commercial contract.

Additionally, the National School of Government's residential training site at Sunningdale Park, Ascot is operated by De Vere Venues under the terms of a PFI contract which includes televisions. The National School pays inclusive delegate rates for its use of the facilities and thus is unable to identify any charges in respect of the provision of these televisions.

Procurement

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the effect of procurement policy in relation to small and medium-sized enterprises on the creation of local jobs. [72108]

Mr Maude: Local authorities are responsible for their own procurement policies and decisions, but many choose to follow central Government policies and practices, which are published on the Cabinet Office website and disseminated to local authorities via procurement policy notes. Baroness Eaton, Chair of the Local Government Group, has signalled local government support for the measures the Government announced on 11 February to make it easier for SMEs to compete for public sector contracts.

Where SMEs are successful in bidding for contracts, they are often local companies providing local employment.

Employment: Birmingham

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of lower skilled jobs at Levels One and Two available in Birmingham, Ladywood on 1 September in each year from 2006 to 2011. [71919]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate he has made of the number of lower skilled jobs at Levels One and Two available in Birmingham, Ladywood on 1 September in each year from 2006 to 2011. [071919]

Estimates of vacancies for the UK as a whole are obtained from the ONS Vacancy Survey, which is the most complete source of vacancy information. Local area estimates are obtained from vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus, but Jobcentre Plus vacancies account for around half of the total number of vacancies as reported by the Vacancy Survey.

Table 1 shows the number of live unfilled Jobcentre Plus vacancies for Birmingham, Ladywood for skill levels 1 and 2. Data have been provided for the August period for 2006 to 2011 as the latest data available is for the period August 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available are the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: The number of skill levels[1] 1 and 2 job vacancies in Birmingham, Ladywood parliamentary constituency

As at August each year	*Skill level 1*	*Skill level 2*	*Total skill levels 1 and 2*
2006	1,172	680	1,852
2007	1,406	310	1,716
2008	1,091	271	1,362
2009	700	164	864
2010	1,152	328	1,480
2011	956	467	1,423

[1] Skills levels are defined based on Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) 2000.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Ex-servicemen

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has any plans to appoint a Minister within his Department with responsibility for the welfare of current and former military personnel. [71999]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 15 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 864W.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* transaction date, *(b)* transaction amount and *(c)* supplier was of each transaction undertaken by the Central Office of Information using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and which of these transactions attracted level three or enhanced transaction entry. [70833]

Mr Maude: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Emma Lochhead, dated 7 September 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question 70833 regarding transactions made using the Government Procurement Card (GPC).

The Central Office of Information (COI) uses the Government Procurement Card as it is an efficient way of processing low value transactions.

The Government is committed to transparency and we believe the information regarding Government Procurement Cards for this financial year is the most relevant. Central Government Departments will be publishing any transactions over £500 on their websites, starting with 2011/2012 Quarter 1 (April-June) data at the end of September and then on a monthly basis.

The cost required to obtain, contextualise and report data for the last 3 years would exceed the cost limits of a Freedom of Information request or a Parliamentary question.

Mystery Shopper Complaints Scheme

Simon Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in respect of which contracts complaints have been submitted through the mystery shopper complaints scheme; which complaints *(a)* were investigated, *(b)* had no further action taken, *(c)* were passed on to the relevant procurement body, *(d)* had a review ordered, *(e)* resulted in a change to the terms of a contract and *(f)* resulted in a decision by the contracting authority to cancel the contract. [72251]

Mr Maude: The Government have published the issues and the resolution of the cases investigated by the mystery shopper service in the first three months of the scheme between February and May 2011. I refer the hon. Member to this report, which can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/mystery-shopper

Further reports will be issued in due course.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new non-departmental public bodies have been established since May 2010. [71570]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, the Government have established and classified four new NDPBs which were not previously in existence in another form. In addition a small number of bodies are proposed in legislation which is currently subject to Parliamentary consideration.

SMEs

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small and medium-sized enterprises have participated in the SME Product Surgery scheme. [70068]

Mr Maude: Three SME Product Surgeries have been held to date. Five SMEs participated in the first, held by the Department for Transport in Birmingham on 17 June; 32 SMEs participated in a Product Surgery on the 29 July organised by the Ministry of Justice; and nine were chosen from over 350 proposals submitted to the Innovation Launch Pad to take part in the Product

Surgery, held in London on 19 July. At least six further Product Surgeries are being planned with Departments for later in the year.

The Cabinet Office is encouraging SMEs to register their interest in participating in future Product Surgeries by contacting the Cabinet Office service desk.

Sick Leave: Civil Service

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information he holds on the number of days of sickness absence in the civil service on average per employee in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [70586]

Mr Maude: The average number of days of sickness absence in the civil service per person and staff year for *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 are given in the following table:

Table 1: Average working days lost per person[1] and staff year[2] in the civil service, 2009 and 2010

	Average working days lost per person	*Average days working lost per staff year*
2010	7.6	8.3
2009	7.7	8.7

[1] Average working days lost per person—the total number of working days lost across the year divided by the total number of employees during the year.

[2] Average working days lost per staff year—the total number of working days lost across the year divided by the total number of potential staff years.

Source:

Quarterly Sickness Absence Data, Cabinet Office

More information on sickness absence is available on the civil service statistics website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/sickness.aspx

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Manpower

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay band in his Department are working on policy on Lord Leveson's inquiry into the media; [71959]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay band in his Department were working for the Endowment Fund panel *(a)* on 1 December 2010 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available; [71960]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay band in his Department are working on policy on matters within the order of reference of the Joint Committee on Superinjunctions; [71961]

(4) how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay band in his Department *(a)* were working on 1 December 2010 and *(b)* are working on (i) digital switchover, (ii) heritage, (iii) libraries, (iv) the National Lottery, (v) horse racing, (vi) gambling, (vii) licensing, (viii) the London 2012 Olympic Games, (ix) sport, (x) tourism, (xi) implementation of the Digital Economy Act 2010, (xii) broadband, (xiii) the May Day Bank Holiday Review, (xiv) the live entertainment consultation, (xv) cultural education, (xvi) spectrum, (xvii) sporting governance and (xviii) intellectual property policy; [71968]

(5) how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department in each pay band were working for the Creative Industries Council *(a)* on 1 December 2010 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available; [71988]

(6) how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay band in his Department *(a)* were working on 1 December 2010 and *(b)* are working on the proposed Communications Bill; [71973]

(7) how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay band in his Department *(a)* were working on 1 December 2010 and *(b)* are working on policy on local television. [71974]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has operated a fully flexible resourcing system since April 2011. This model enables the Department to quickly adapt to changing priorities by targeting resources in order to meet our departmental objectives. The Department operated a more limited model of flexible resourcing from 2008 onwards in which some individuals were in a flexible pool but others were in standing teams dedicated to specific policy areas. As individuals are deployed flexibly across our entire remit, we do not have the data to provide complete FTE figures broken down to specific policies.

Football Governance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the Government's response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's Seventh Report of the current session on Football Governance. [71972]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I am grateful to the Select Committee for their report on Football Governance, which contains a strong set of recommendations and conclusions. The Department expects to publish the Government response shortly.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry of each individual transaction undertaken by the Olympic Delivery Authority using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71700]

Hugh Robertson: The Department does not collate this information for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the ODA to write directly to my hon. Friend with this information.

National Lottery

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has any statutory powers of direction in respect of use of Big Lottery funds. [71546]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has no such powers. The responsibility for the Big Lottery Fund now rests with my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General .

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of tickets sold for the London 2012 Olympic Games by parliamentary constituency. [72053]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is the private company operating independently of Government that is responsible for staging the London 2012 Games, including the ticketing arrangements. LOCOG has not broken down London 2012 ticket applications or sales by parliamentary constituency. Ticket applications were split approximately equally between London, the wider south-east and the rest of the UK.

Telephone Calls: Unsolicited Goods and Services

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on nuisance and repeat sales calls to commercial numbers; whether he plans to take steps to prohibit such calls; and if he will make a statement. [71720]

Mr Vaizey: No representations have been received on this particular issue. Safeguards are already in place through the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 (PECR), which provides protection to commercial numbers. Unsolicited marketing calls are not allowed to be made to a number that is registered with the Corporate Telephone Preference Service (CTPS) scheme. The CTPS scheme was introduced in 2004 and to date about 1.8 million numbers are registered with it. Further detailed information about the CTPS can be found using the link:

http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/ctps/what

Television

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made on launching local television stations; and if he will make a statement. [R] [71635]

Mr Vaizey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport recently announced 65 locations that have the opportunity to pioneer commercially viable local TV across the UK for the first time. They will be supported by a new framework, with the first licences awarded during the course of next year.

Television: Licensing

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered the merits of lowering to 65 the age at which individuals are eligible for free TV licence. [71574]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are satisfied with the current range of concessionary television licences and no consideration is being given to extending this range.

Tourism: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to provide information on attractions *(a)* in Cumbria and *(b)* nationally during the London 2012 Olympics. [71600]

John Penrose: The Government's plans for promoting the growth of the visitor economy are set out in detail in the paper, "Government Tourism Policy" published in March 2011, and available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

Over the next four years VisitBritain will be running the "You're Invited" programme, which will capitalise on the international interest in the recent royal wedding, as well as next year's diamond jubilee and Olympic and Paralympic Games, and showcase Britain to the world. The programme aims to attract 4 million extra visitors, spending £2 billion in the UK economy, which will support businesses, jobs and growth. The programme is backed by a £100 million marketing fund, funded by the public and private sector. Visitor attractions in Cumbria and across the country will be featured in this promotion.

VisitBritain publishes the:

www.Tourism2012Games.org

website in partnership with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to help tourism businesses and organisations across the UK to connect with short and long term opportunities provided by the Games and to play their part in delivering a world-class welcome to visitors in 2012 and beyond. VisitBritain is a leader in the use of social media for tourism marketing and the team has already visited Cumbria to inform businesses how they can get involved. The third part of the roll out of the marketing campaign will be a social media campaign due to go live towards the end of the year.

During the Games period itself, information on Britain, including Cumbria, will be disseminated through both the London Media Centre, and the main Media Centre at the Olympic Park.

VisitEngland is working closely with local areas and destinations, in line with Government's localism agenda, to grow the value of local tourism economies. This is co-ordinated through the National Strategic Framework for Tourism, which includes an action programme developed in consultation with the tourism sector.

VisitEngland is currently working with destinations across the country, including Cumbria, on a campaign to deliver economic growth from the domestic market, and to support employment and job creation. This will maximise the impact of the unique events of 2012, including the Queens diamond jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, helping to spread the benefits of the Games outside London and maintain a legacy of domestic tourism growth.

JUSTICE

Civil Disorder

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of those charged as a result of the August 2011 public disorder who have previously *(a)* served a custodial sentence, *(b)* been released early from a custodial sentence, *(c)* worn a tag and *(d)* served a community sentence. [71554]

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons arrested in connection with the August 2011 public disorder in England and Wales were remanded into custody following a first hearing; [71604]

(2) how many persons convicted of offences in connection with the August 2011 public disorder in England and Wales have been jailed to date. [71605]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently publishing frequent updates on people being dealt with by the court system in relation to the disturbances on 6-9 August. These reports can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/ad-hoc/index.htm

As the publication notes the chief statistician will review the quality of data and release further breakdowns as reliable data become available. A more detailed release will be published on 15 September containing detailed information on age, gender, offence committed, sentence given, and previous criminal history.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were charged with the offence of rioting under section one of the Public Order Act 1986, in each of the last three years. [71636]

Mr Blunt: Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for rioting under section 1 of the Public Order Act 1986 in England and Wales, from 2008 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Charging data are not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice; prosecutions data are provided in lieu.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring, 2012.

Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for rioting under section 1 of the Public Order Act 1986, England and Wales, 2008-10[1,2,3]

Offence	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Riot	15	14	—

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Contingent Fee

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effects of implementing his proposals on reform of contingent fee arrangements on access to justice for individuals in each decile of the population by income. [71512]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are proposing to allow the use of Damages-based Agreements, also known as contingency fees, in civil litigation in England and Wales. This proposal is being taken forward in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, which is currently before Parliament. The Bill also includes proposals on 'no win no fee' conditional fee agreements.

The Government published an Impact Assessment alongside its consultation response 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations: The Government Response', column 8041, on 29 March 2011. This Impact Assessment identifies potential impacts on individuals, groups and businesses.

Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry of each transaction undertaken by HM Courts Service using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71704]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice is committed to transparency and will be publishing details of all Government Procurement Card transactions over £500 on its website. Data for 2011-12 Quarter 1 (April-June) will be published by the end of September with Quarter 2 (July-September) following at the end of October. Transaction data will then be published monthly one month in arrears.

The work required to obtain, contextualise and report data for HM Courts Service for 2008-09 and 2009-10 would be at disproportionate costs and will not therefore be published.

Homicide: Sentencing

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to update Schedule 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to require judges to sentence individuals found guilty of a hate crime murder to a mandatory minimum terms of 30 years. [67854]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Schedule 21 of the 2003 Act provides guidance to judges in determining the minimum term of a mandatory life sentence for murder. It provides for starting points not mandatory minimum terms. Schedule 21 provides for a starting point of 30 years for a murder aggravated by hostility towards the victim on the basis of race, religion, and sexual orientation, but not disability. We are aware of this anomaly and we are currently looking at the best way to address it. However, it is important to bear in mind that the courts can, and do, aggravate sentence in cases of hate crime whatever form it might take.

Immigration

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been convicted of offences under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 for holding someone in slavery or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour; [71995]

(2) in how many cases where a conviction has been secured under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 the victim *(a)* had been trafficked, *(b)* was British and *(c)* had an immigration status which allowed them to work in the UK. [71994]

Mr Blunt: Section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 came into force in April 2010. There have been no reports of any convictions under this Act in 2010 (latest available).

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. Information is not held on a victim's nationality and immigration status. It is not possible to identify whether the victim had been trafficked.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring, 2012.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will conduct a study involving *(a)* all prisons or *(b)* more than one prison to ascertain how many former military personnel are in the prison system. [71977]

Mr Blunt: In September 2010, MOJ and Defence Analytical Services Advice (DASA) published the results of joint work to determine the number of regular ex-service personnel in prison in England and Wales. The report provided a figure of 2,280 ex-service personnel that were serving a sentence in prison in England and Wales.

This remains the most comprehensive and reliable piece of research on this matter to date and we have no current plans to repeat the exercise as there is no evidence to suggest that the proportion of veterans within the prison population has changed significantly.

Remand in Custody

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the production of pre-sentence reports for courts in each of the last three years. [71637]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Full information about these costs is not currently available. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is developing systems to report expenditure on a service by service basis. This information will be published in autumn 2012 through the Government's Transparency Agenda.

Sexual Offences: Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted of *(a)* sexual offences involving children, *(b)* rape and *(c)* murder have been granted unsupervised day release from (i) prison and (ii) another secure unit in each of the last three years. [69733]

Mr Blunt: The number of unescorted day resettlement releases given to prisoners serving sentences for murder or rape, England and Wales 2007 to 30 June 2009 (latest period at which the requested level of detail are available) are provided in the following table.

These data relate to the number of releases and not the number of prisoners. One prisoner may be released on a number of occasions, for example, where they are engaged in paid or unpaid work in the community. From the data held centrally, it is not possible to separately identify from those prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences, which were for sexual offences against children.

Unescorted day resettlement releases[1] for prisoners serving sentences for murder, rape and all offences[2]

Offence	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Murder	46,284	38,107	17,841
Rape	1,097	2,035	1,118
All offences	422,813	414,512	189,810

[1] Figures relate to the number of day resettlement releases given and not the number of prisoners who received them (a prisoner may have more than one resettlement release).

[2] January to June.

Note:

The data presented in this table are drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Release on temporary licence is unavailable to juveniles held in Secure Children's Home or Secure Training Centres but such offenders may be released temporarily under the mobility process. It is generally supervised. Since these data have been collected there have been no unsupervised releases for offenders convicted of the offences requested in the question.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Commonwealth

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department provides to the Commonwealth Business Council; and if he will make a statement. [71786]

Mr Prisk: This Department's work with the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) is principally through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). Their complementary work means that UKTI and the CBC keep each other informed regarding their activities, and that they co-operate where appropriate. For example, the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, will be a keynote speaker at the CBC's Commonwealth Business Forum in Perth, Western Australia in October 2011, and UKTI was an official partner for CBC's Power Summit 2011 (conference on the energy sector in March 2011).

Banks: Competition

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on competition within the banking sector; [70994]

(2) what information his Department holds on the proportion of small businesses that have applied for bank finance in each month since January 2011; [70997]

(3) what information his Department holds on the proportion of small businesses that have had their applications for finance turned down in each month since January 2011. [70996]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer (71257) I provided for my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton South (Mr Binley), today.

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on competition within the banking sector. [71253]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Chancellor of the Exchequer meet regularly to discuss a number of matters relating to the economy. This includes discussion of competition in the banking sector.

As set out in the coalition agreement, the Government are committed to fostering diversity in the provision of financial services, and to creating a more competitive banking industry.

Micro Business

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will respond to the findings of the British Chambers of Commerce Workforce Survey on micro businesses. [71091]

Mr Prisk: I welcome the British Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Survey on micro businesses, following on from their June survey of sole traders—and I look forward to seeing further publications in the same series. The distinctive feature of this series is that it helpfully shows how issues are perceived differently by businesses of different sizes. The comments on experience and perceptions of employment law are a particularly helpful input to the current review in this area.

Business Link

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which businesses and business groups his Department has consulted on *(a)* the effectiveness of Business Link to date and *(b)* improvements that could be made to advice given through Business Link. [71092]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills consulted on the effectiveness of business support delivery and what improvements could be made to the Business Link service with, representatives from; the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF), the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the Forum of Private Business (FPB), the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and the Institute of Directors (IoD), with a group of independent entrepreneurs including members of the Secretary of State's Entrepreneurs Forum, and, through the business representative bodies, via workshops in every English region involving business support practitioners, providers (including Enterprise Agencies), local authorities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's).

(b) Improvements identified included;

A preference for advice to business provided by peer networks, professionals and intermediaries such as accountants and banks;

Government funding for targeted face to face advice to be aimed at SMEs with high growth potential;

Easier access to business information, advice on regulation and Government transactions on the Business Link website and the ability to personalise content; and

Government not to duplicate private sector provision.

New online services are being developed with experts in the relevant subject matter and tested with prospective SME users.

Business: Bank Services

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of competition in the provision of banking services for small businesses. [70993]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer (71256) I provided for my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton South (Mr Binley), today.

Business: Civil Disorder

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications his Department has received for the High Street Support Scheme to date. [70454]

Mr Prisk: To date 35 local authorities have indicated that they intend to claim against the High Street Support Scheme. Information about the number of applications for support from businesses will be available when those local authorities submit their detailed claims for reimbursement to Government, for which the deadline is 3 November.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with representatives of the British Bankers Association on steps to ensure that small businesses affected by public disorder in August 2011 have access to finance required to return to business. [70566]

Mr Prisk: I met with the Metropolitan Police Service and a group of business stakeholders, including the British Bankers Association, during the period in which the riots were occurring. At this meeting we discussed the key actions to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) affected by the situation.

BIS officials worked with the British Bankers Association to ensure that small businesses had the information needed regarding contacting their banks and getting support. This included using the Business Link website to disseminate information on the special measures introduced by banks to support their SME customers affected by the riots.

Some banks have responded to the recent disorder by offering interest and fee-free loans to SMEs affected. Also some banks have made donations to assist the recovery, including to the charitable High Street Fund organised by Sir William Castell.

Business: Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from business organisations on the immigration cap since 1 June 2011. [70564]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has ongoing contact with business representatives from across all sectors on migration issues.

Since June 2011 we have had representations about the impact of the Tier 2 limit on business forward planning.

Business: Industrial Health and Safety

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1192W, on business: industrial health and safety, what assessment he has made of the recommendations in the *(a)* Davidson Review: Implementation of EU Legislation and *(b)* British Chamber of Commerce report on Health and Safety concerning exemptions from some health and safety legislation for people who are self-employed in low risk sectors. [71674]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has an established working relationship with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and I am delighted that this Government are implementing the recommendations from my noble Friend Lord Young of Graffham's recent review of Health and Safety (H&S) in the UK. He made a number of recommendations that are designed through their emphasis on the importance of a risk-based approach to H&S to reduce the burden of compliance with H&S requirements on Small and Medium Enterprises and micro-businesses, including self-employed people. A further review of H&S legislation (both domestic and EU) has been commissioned by the Minister of State Department for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling). The review is being led by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt and I expect him to set out his views on whether we can sensibly make further simplifications and/or exemptions to H&S regulations.

Business: Loans

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions he has met the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss affordable bank finance. [70995]

Mr Prisk: As with all key stakeholders and partners, I meet with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) frequently both bilaterally and through forums such as the Small Business Economic Forum which I chair and which meets quarterly, bringing together Ministers and SME representative bodies together with other ad hoc participants such as the banks. My discussions with the FSB encompass a broad range of subjects, including issues relating to affordable bank finance.

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of small businesses applied for bank finance in each month since January 2011. [71254]

Mr Prisk: The SME Finance Monitor shows that 15% of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) had applied for a new loan or overdraft, or renewed an existing facility, in the last 12 months.

BIS's Annual Small Business Survey 2010 found that 26% of SMEs had applied for finance in the preceding 12 months. This survey excludes businesses with no employees, which are included in the SME Finance Monitor survey. Evidence shows that the use of external finance increases with the size of a business.

The Bank of England's Credit Conditions survey reported a marked increase in demand for credit from small businesses in Quarter 2 2011, following a sharp fall in Quarter 1.

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times he has met representatives of the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss affordable bank finance for small businesses. [71255]

Mr Prisk: As with all key stakeholders and partners, I meet with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) frequently both bilaterally and through forums such as the Small Business Economic Forum which I chair and which meets quarterly, bringing together Ministers and SME representative bodies together with other ad hoc participants such as the banks.

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the level of competition in the banking sector in respect of financing for small businesses. [71256]

Mr Prisk: The Government recognise that the UK's banking sector is highly concentrated. We established the Independent Commission on Banking, part of whose remit was to consider how to promote competition in both retail and investment banking. This included recommendations around measures to promote stability and competition for the benefit of consumers and businesses. The Commission published its final report on 12 September. The Government welcome the report and will be responding before the end of this year.

The Commission's final report states that the financial crisis had led to a significant increase in concentration of the UK banking market. It states that in 2010, the four biggest banks held 85% of small and medium-sized enterprise business current accounts.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills recently met with a panel of new entrant and smaller UK banks, where they discussed entry and expansion in the UK banking market, including business banking.

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the proportion of small businesses that had their applications for finance to a bank turned down in each month since January 2011. [71257]

Mr Prisk: BIS collect data on loans and overdrafts to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from each of the four main lenders, estimated to cover c.75% of the market.

This data show that approvals for SMEs with less than £1 million turnover have moved within fairly narrow bands of around 80% for overdraft applications and 70% for loan applications.

The independent SME Finance Monitor survey found that, over the past 12 months, 72% of overdraft applications and 59% of loan applications were approved in the first instance. At the end of the process, 85% of applications for overdrafts resulted in the business receiving an overdraft and 66% of loan applications resulted in the business receiving a loan. 12% of overdraft applications and 27% of loan applications resulted in the business not receiving finance.

Business: Urban Areas

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to enhance the long-term viability of town centres. [70528]

Mr Prisk: On 17 May we announced that Mary Portas had been appointed to lead an independent review into the future of the high street. She was asked by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister to identify what the Government, local authorities and businesses can do to create diverse, sustainable high streets where small businesses and independent retailers are able to thrive. Mary Portas is engaging with not just retailers, but all high street businesses, the public sector and the third sector to identify what the Government, local authorities, businesses and the third sector can do to create diverse and sustainable high streets. This includes considering how best to develop high streets that contribute to promoting economic growth, creating jobs and improving the quality of life in local areas.

The Government's plan for growth, published alongside Budget 2011, committed BIS and the Department for Communities and Local Government to develop a package of measures to support thriving town centres and build on the Town Centre First Policy. The Mary Portas High Streets Review will be contributing to this work.

In addition, we have published the "Healthy High Street Guide" to help communities recognise decline in their high streets and take appropriate action. It is a practical guide for local businesses and people, which they can use to evaluate their shopping areas, and draw up a plan of action to improve them. It can also be used by communities to look at what their retailers offer, what is available elsewhere in the area, and what can be done to develop these offerings in a complementary way.

Businesses: Fraud

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information and advice on fraud awareness and prevention *(a)* is provided to start-up businesses via the current Business Link service and *(b)* will be provided by the new Business Link service from November 2011. [70754]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Under current arrangements, the regional development agencies who manage the Business Link regional service in England support start-up businesses. As part of this support they distribute No-Nonsense Guides, produced in conjunction with Government Departments, which give businesses clear and jargon-free information about the legal, official and financial aspects of setting up and running a business (including legal structures, data protection, patent and credit protection, to help prevent fraud).

These guides are available on the Business Link website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

with other sources of information and practical support to help businesses (including start-ups) to safeguard their business against the latest scams and stings. In additional, useful contacts details are available to report any potential fraud and get help if a victim.

(b) This information will still be available to businesses after November 2011 and businesses experiencing difficulty accessing it will also be able to get help through the new Business Link helpline.

Civil Disorder

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of the public disorder in August 2011 to businesses in the London Borough of Southwark. [71585]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 September 2011]*: No estimates of the costs to businesses in Southwark are available.

Southwark borough has indicated its intention to claim against Government's £20 million High Street Support scheme. It is expected that the borough will be amongst the largest recipients of funding when their detailed claim is submitted.

Air Travel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what occasions he has flown on official business *(a)* by budget airline and *(b)* in economy class in the last 12 months. [67918]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills flew economy class to Russia in November 2010. Both officials and Ministers travel economy class for short-haul flights and business class for long-haul flights. Where there is a requirement for a Minister to travel first class the difference in cost is reimbursed to the Department.

Departmental Training

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location, *(c)* number of attendees and *(d)* cost to the public purse was for each (i) away day and (ii) team building activity organised for staff in his Department between June 2001 and May 2002. [68338]

Mr Davey: BIS was formed through a Machinery of Government (MoG) change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Neither of these two predecessor Departments existed in 2001-02.

The current arrangements within the Department are that these type of events are organised at local level and funded from individual group or directorate budgets. We do not hold a central record of when these activities take place and the respective costs.

Employment: Foreign Investment in UK

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs *(a)* created and *(b)* safeguarded by foreign direct investment from other EU member states in each year since 1981; and if he will make a statement. [67087]

Mr Prisk: The following table shows the Department's estimate of the number of jobs created and safeguarded by foreign direct investment (FDI) to the UK from other EU member states from fiscal year 1984/85 onwards. Data are not available for fiscal years 1981/82 to 1983/84. Data have not been provided on a consistent EU27 basis, but is based on EU membership during the years in question.

Jobs created/safeguarded by FDI from other EU member states (MS) to UK

	Number of MS excluding UK	*Jobs created*	*Jobs safeguarded*
1984/85	9	3,091	2,837
1985/86	9	4,619	2,446
1986/87	11	4,860	1,561
1987/88	11	5,915	9,433
1988/89	11	6,788	6,370
1989/90	11	6,426	12,464
1990/91	11	5,141	18,061
1991/92	11	5,722	14,212
1992/93	11	4,550	20,727
1993/94	11	5,031	43,492
1994/95	11	6,930	15,154
1995/96	14	10,492	18,103
1996/97	14	5,777	9,474
1997/98	14	10,249	18,881
1998/99	14	9,918	18,123
1999/2000	14	8,701	24,307
2000/01	14	15,708	8,567
2001/02	14	11,187	7,649
2002/03	14	11,381	4,650
2003/04	14	8,199	12,324
2004/05	24	11,950	11,755
2005/06	24	9,388	10,070
2006/07	26	10,142	13,085
2007/08	26	16,163	20,080
2008/09	26	11,432	17,848
2009/10	26	12,074	11,887
2010/11	26	12,532	14,104

Source:
UK Trade and Investment

Foreign Investment in UK

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 494W, on inward investment, how much inward investment has been agreed at events hosted by Royal Navy vessels since 2010. [70242]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) plays a key role in attracting inward investment to the UK, providing support to foreign owned companies considering the UK as a potential location. UKTI does not centrally collect data showing the value of inward investment agreed at networking events, including those hosted on Royal Navy vessels, as investment decisions are typically based on a variety of factors. UKTI does record the number of FDI projects entering the UK each year, including those projects supported by UKTI. In 2010/11 UKTI significantly assisted 849 of 1,434 projects, more than ever before, with 49,898 associated jobs.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 494W, on inward investment, what plans his Department has to co-operate with the Royal Navy in order to increase the frequency of events similar to the involvement of HMS Ocean in the UK-Brazil seminar on defence and security co-operation; and whether future such events will be funded by his Department. [70243]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation regularly liaises with the Ministry of Defence to identify where the best opportunities exist to promote defence and security exports taking into account the operational programme of the Royal Navy. Two such events are planned at present. The additional costs of those events are met by contributions from the industry exhibitors.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage inward investment from Australia and New Zealand. [71387]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 September 2011]*: To ensure the UK retains a strong pipeline of high quality investment projects from overseas, steps include the introduction of a more integrated national business model to support inward investment, ensuring that investors always see the very best the UK has to offer; a genuinely cross-Government approach to strategic relationship management of key global investors; action to ensure that the UK's tax regime and planning regulations build investor confidence; action to ensure our regulatory system is proportionate and encourages growth; and encouragement of specific infrastructure investment.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has dedicated investment teams in Australia and New Zealand. In 2010-11:

53 investment projects from Australia located or expanded in the UK—35 assisted by UKTI;

15 investment projects from New Zealand located or expanded in the UK—14 assisted by UKTI.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the dates of any discussions between UK Trade and Investment and the office of the First Minister of Wales in the last 12 months; and what the subject was of any such discussion. [71545]

Mr Prisk: Meetings between my noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment (Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint)and the First Minister of Wales took place on 2 February 2011 and 28 March 2011. Discussions at both meetings centred around the current trade and investment climate for businesses and how we might develop closer links between UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and the Welsh Government.

UKTI officials are in regular contact with trade and investment colleagues in the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government, along with the other devolved Administrations, play an active role on the International Business Development Forum (IBDF) which is the main engagement mechanism for co-ordinating the UK effort on trade and inward investment activity. IBDF meets every three months with the next meeting scheduled to take place on 28 September 2011.

Higher Education: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people resident in the City of York started a degree course in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* the latest year for which figures are available. [71432]

Mr Willetts: The latest available data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

Young[1] first degree entrants from York local authority[2] UK higher education institutions[3]—Academic years 1996/97, 2005/06 and 2009/10

Academic year	*Entrants*
1996/97	515
2005/06	795
2009/10	840

Note:

Figures are based on snapshot at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

[1] Young covers entrants aged under 21.

[2] Excludes entrants whose local authority could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series. Also excludes entrants studying HE courses at further education institutions.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding per *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate student his Department has allocated to (i) the University of York and (ii) York St John University in each year since 1998. [71433]

Mr Willetts: This information is not held in the form requested, but it is possible to provide notional figures for the amount of grant distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for teaching and research apportioned by the number of learners (full-time equivalent) in each year. It should be noted that there have been some significant changes in HEFCE's funding methodology over this period which means that the following table should not be read as a time series. In addition the data do not take account of other sources of public funding, for example from the NHS or the research councils. Crucially it should be borne in mind that institutions have a significant degree of freedom in terms of how their grant is distributed internally. It is for that reason that the figures given are notional and should not be read as the actual level of resource attached to any particular learner.

£ per academic year

	York St John University			*University of York*		
Study level:	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*
1998-99	2,276	418	1,185	2,942	1,842	6,332
1999-2000	2,355	477	1,898	3,008	1,964	6,593
2000-01	2,540	429	1,258	3,083	2,005	6,452
2001-02	2,707	594	1,715	3,118	1,920	6,686
2002-03	2,752	222	954	3,159	1,720	7,275
2003-04	2,988	440	662	3,110	1,663	7,985
2004-05	3,522	359	1,458	3,344	1,484	8,515
2005-06	3,695	350	n/a	3,438	1,540	6,210
2006-07	3,897	509	n/a	3,668	1,672	5,149
2007-08	4,075	642	n/a	3,895	1,828	5,854
2008-09	4,078	927	n/a	4,088	1,911	5,806

£ per academic year

	York St John University			*University of York*		
Study level:	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*	*UG*	*PGT*	*PGR*
2009-10	3,699	687	4,808	3,864	728	5,268
2010-11	3,608	371	4,366	3,768	718	4,922

Key:
UG: Undergraduate
PGT: Postgraduate taught
PGR: Postgraduate research

Notes:

1. UG/PGT

'Funds' for UG and PGT are standard resource minus assumed fees, plus widening access and improving retention funding.

FTEs' are Home and EU HEFCE-funded, excluding non-completions.

Funding for non-mainstream FTEs has been excluded.

2. PGR

Figures include proportionately small amounts of transitional funding for PGR students.

For the years in which the mainstream QR quality threshold differed from the PGR supervision fund threshold, the student numbers in this analysis include the larger of the eligible student totals.

In the early years some notional teaching grant is included in the funding amounts.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the size of the informal economy in the residential repair, maintenance and improvement sector. [71342]

Mr Prisk: The Department does not hold estimates of the size of the informal economy in the residential repair, maintenance and improvement sector.

A comparison of 2008 construction output figures with household expenditure figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) records expenditure on Home Improvements—contracted out at £24,128 million (source: ONS, Family Spending—Living Costs and Food Survey) and £22,442 million output in public and private housing repair and maintenance (source: ONS, Output in the construction industry and NISRA, Northern Ireland Construction Output Statistics). The difference of £1,685.5 million may, in part, be explained by the ONS survey not including data from legitimate small firms who are not registered for PAYE or VAT.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58733]

Mr Davey: BIS have only one IBM contract for the supply of SPSS licences for statistical analysis purposes. The annual support charges for these licences is currently £18,000.

Insolvency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of business insolvencies. [70701]

Mr Davey: Government recognise the importance of ensuring that the UK's businesses are best placed to take advantage of funding opportunities available to them. Accordingly, we want to ensure that companies are adequately investment-ready to attract finance where necessary. BusinessLink.gov offers advice on creating and presenting business plans to best effect, preparing to apply for bank funding and attracting equity investment.

To support small businesses to address the challenges they face, we are ensuring we have a predictable tax system that rewards endeavour; enabling better access to both debt and equity finance; reducing red tape; enabling business to more easily access public procurement opportunities; encouraging business exports; and making sure that the support we provide is delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible. That is why we are revamping the Business Link website and have supported the launch of the mentoring web portal, enabling users to find the right mentoring network for them, and to develop both the demand and the supply of mentoring.

Investment: Private Sector

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to stimulate private sector investment in Coventry. [70809]

Mr Prisk: At Budget 2011, BIS published 'The Plan for Growth' jointly with HM Treasury, which introduced a package of measures to create a new model of economic growth, driven by private sector investment, through four overarching ambitions for the UK:

1. To create the most competitive tax system in the G20.
2. To make the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business.
3. To encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy.
4. To create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe.

BIS and HMT are now working on the successful implementation of these measures, and have also announced the next stage in the Government's Growth Review.

Coventry is covered by the Coventry and Warwickshire local enterprise partnership, which is taking forward a broad programme of work that has three key ambitions to stimulate private sector investment in the area:

Create an environment where it is easy for businesses to start and thrive;

Accelerate the growth of the local economy through targeted support in our key strategic sectors; and

Tackle the skills problem by aligning supply and demand.

Job Creation: Private Sector

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of jobs created in the private sector in each quarter of the last three years. [68942]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not produced any estimates of the number of jobs created in the private sector in each quarter of the last three years.

While the Office for National Statistics also does not publish estimates of jobs created in the private sector, they do publish estimates of total employment in the private sector, which are shown in the following table, taken from the ONS Labour Market Statistics release on 14 September 2011.

UK Private sector employment

	Million, seasonally adjusted
2008	
June	23,513
September	23,321
December	23,043
2009	
March	22,790
June	22,543
September	22,573
December	22,515
2010	
March	22,557
June	22,868
September	22,881
December	22,973
2011	
March	23,091
June	23,132

Manufacturing Industries

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change the viability of investment in the UK manufacturing sector. [71611]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), complemented by frequent discussions at ministerial and official level. Economic growth is the top priority for the Government and discussions cover a wide range of issues, including how we can help UK manufacturers take advantage of the opportunities presented by the transition to a green economy and development of a package of measures for energy intensive businesses whose international competitiveness is most affected by our energy and climate change policies.

In addition UK Trade and Investment, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, and the Department for Energy and Climate Change work closely together to attract inward investment to support the development of low carbon infrastructure, for example for offshore wind manufacturing. There are also considerable opportunities for our manufacturers from developing greener production processes throughout the supply chain, so that they minimise carbon emissions and use energy and resources efficiently and effectively.

Mature Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will list the 30 universities or higher education institutions with the highest *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of mature students; and if he will make a statement. [69047]

Mr Willetts: The 30 English higher education institutions with the highest proportion and number of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants who were mature (aged 21 or over) are shown in tables 1 and 2 respectively. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012. Figures for undergraduate entrants have been provided in the table as the definition of mature differs by level of study. Mature undergraduates are defined as 21 or over; mature postgraduates are 25 or over.

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] who were mature—Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage of entrants who were mature[2]*
Birkbeck College	95.4
Institute of Education	92.2
Open University	89.6
Thames Valley University	81.6
London South Bank University	78.5
University of Teesside	75.9
Harper Adams University College	75.3
University of Bolton	75.1
University Campus Suffolk	72.3
St Georges Hospital Medical School	72.2
Anglia Ruskin University	71.2
Edge Hill University	69.6
London Metropolitan University	67.6
University of Sunderland	67.4
University of East London	66.0
Buckinghamshire New University	65.3
University of Warwick	64.7
University of Greenwich	64.0
Canterbury Christ Church University	62.9
University of Chester	61.0
University of Huddersfield	60.6
City University London	60.3
Staffordshire University	60.3
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	60.0
University of Bedfordshire	59.8

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] who were mature—Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage of entrants who were mature*[2]
University of Cumbria	59.7
Coventry University	59.2
University of Worcester	59.0
University of Central Lancashire	58.7
University of Northampton	58.5

[1] Covers full-time and part-time undergraduates In their first year of study.
[2] Covers entrants aged 21 or over.
Note:
Percentages fn the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are given to one decimal place.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest number of UK-domiciled undergraduate entrants[1] who were mature—Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Mature entrants*[2]
Open University	89,360
University of Teesside	11,245
University of Central Lancashire	7,495
London South Bank University	7,390
Birkbeck College	7,360
University of Plymouth	6,780
University of Greenwich	6,485
Anglia Ruskin University	6,290
Thames Valley University	5,930
Edge Hill University	5,890
University of Warwick	5,320
University of Sunderland	5,200
University of Hull	5,080
Birmingham City University	5,030
Staffordshire University	4,950
Coventry University	4,875
University of Huddersfield	4,845
Sheffield Hallam University	4,735
University of East London	4,530
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	4,380
Leeds Metropolitan University	4,285
University of the West of England, Bristol	4,265
University of Wolverhampton	4,240
London Metropolitan University	3,860
Canterbury Christ Church University	3,610
University of Cumbria	3,510
University of Bedfordshire	3,495
University of Westminster	3,315
Middlesex University	3,300
University of Chester	3,275

[1] Covers full-time and part-time undergraduates in their first year of study.
[2] Covers entrants aged 21 or over.
Note:
Figures in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Medical Research Council

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what priority the Medical Research Council gives to research into neurological conditions. [71402]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council's (MRC) strategic research priorities are outlined in its strategic plan for 2009-14, “'Research Changes Lives”. Priorities for the current spending review, including plans for delivery, are outlined in the MRC Delivery Plan 2011/12 to 2014/15.

Both documents are available from the MRC's website at:

www.mrc.ac.uk

and outline MRC plans to increase funding in neuroscience, including research into mental health, neurodegeneration and neurological conditions, and addiction. The level of funding awarded in these areas will be dependent on the quality and strategic relevance of any proposals received.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what priority the Medical Research Council gives to research into long-term conditions. [71404]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council's (MRC) strategic research priorities are outlined in its strategic plan for 2009-14, ‘Research Changes Lives’. Under the strategic aim ‘Picking research that delivers’, two research priorities have been outlined: ‘Resilience, repair and replacement’ and ‘Living a long and healthy life’. Both priorities provide opportunities to support research relating to long-term conditions.

Priorities for the current spending review, including plans for delivery, are outlined in the MRC Delivery Plan 2011/12 to 2014/15.

Both documents are available from the MRC's website at:

www.mrc.ac.uk

The level of funding awarded in these areas will be dependent on the quality and strategic relevance of any proposals received.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what role his Department has in setting research priorities for the Medical Research Council. [71405]

Mr Willetts: The Government take a view on the overall level of funding to science and research and its distribution between the research councils. These decisions are informed by external advice drawn from a wide range of expert sources including academia and industry, both nationally and internationally.

Every Government will have some key national strategic priorities, which the research base has a role in addressing. It is appropriate for Ministers to ask the research councils to consider programmes to tackle these strategic priorities, but it is for the councils to decide on specific projects and people to fund within these priorities, free from ministerial interference.

In line with the Haldane Principle, BIS does not interfere on decisions concerning funding of individual research proposals, which are best taken by researchers themselves through peer review. This is a matter for individual research councils based on advice from the science community. The coalition Government support this principle as vital for the protection of academic independence and excellence.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) has worked with its major stakeholder groups to review and evaluate its strategic direction. Discussions with the MRC's Council (which BIS attends), Strategy Board, its research boards and overview groups have reflected on how the MRC can be best positioned to deliver its mission. BIS also has sight of MRC's draft strategic plan before it is published.

Mobile Phones

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of progress on the development and introduction of a universal charger for mobile telephones; and if he will make a statement. [70532]

Mr Prisk: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer (71047) I provided today.

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of progress towards a standard charger for mobile telephones. [71047]

Mr Prisk: No recent assessment has been made by the Government. Industry has voluntarily agreed a Memorandum of Understanding covering 90% of European mobile phone sales to introduce the first standardised mobile phone charger and compatible mobile phones. The aspiration of the industry is that, by 1 January 2012, the majority of all new mobile phone models available will support a universal charging connector.

Nuclear Fusion: Research

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated into cold fusion devices. [70991]

Mr Willetts: At present no funding has been awarded for research into cold fusion by bodies funded by this Department.

Nuclear Power: Research

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on nuclear research and development by the research councils since May 2010. [70200]

Mr Willetts: The total expenditure by the RCUK Energy Programme[1] for nuclear fission research and development was £6.5 million for the financial year 2010-11.

Expenditure for the financial year 2011-12 will be available in April 2012.

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[1] Led by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the RCUK Energy Programme brings together the work in this area of EPSRC and that of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

Office for Life Sciences

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Office for Life Sciences will cover all life sciences industries, including the agricultural and industrial biotechnology sectors. [71357]

Mr Willetts: The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) works to create a supportive business environment for all life science industries. This covers the pharmaceutical, medical biotechnology, medical technology, industrial biotechnology and agricultural biotechnology sectors. Life sciences is an important growth area and the OLS works closely with industry sectors to understand the issues impacting on UK competitiveness and to develop evidence-based policy in order to retain current investment and secure future investment.

Overseas Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will list the 30 universities or higher education institutions with the highest *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of students from overseas; and if he will make a statement. [69050]

Mr Willetts: The 30 English higher education institutions with the highest proportion and number of enrolments from overseas (covers students domiciled in European Union countries other than the United Kingdom and countries outside the European Union) are shown in tables 1 and 2 respectively. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of enrolments[1] from overseas. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage of enrolments from overseast[2]*
London Business School	73.8
London School of Economics and Political Science	65.5
University of Buckingham	57.0
Cranfield University	49.8
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	48.5
Royal College of Music	43.1
School of Oriental and African Studies	42.8
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	40.4
Royal College of Art	40.1
Royal Academy of Music	39.3
University of the Arts, London	38.7
University of London (Institutes and activities)	36.1
University College London	35.7

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of enrolments[1] from overseas. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage of enrolments from overseast[2]*
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	32.9
City University London	31.0
Aston University	30.4
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	30.3
University of Surrey	30.2
University of Bedfordshire	29.4
Courtauld Institute of Art	29.4
University of Cambridge	27.9
University of Bath	27.9
University of Essex	27.8
University of Warwick	27.7
Brunei University	27.2
University College Birmingham	25.6
London Metropolitan University	25.5
University of Oxford	25.4
Queen Mary and Westfield College	25.1
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	24.9

[1] Covers full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments in all years of study.
[2] Covers students domiciled in European Union (EU) countries other than the United Kingdom and non-EU countries.
Note:
Percentages in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are given to one decimal place.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest number of enrolments[1] from overseas. Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Enrolments from overseas[2]*
University of Manchester	9,915
University College London	8,290
University of Nottingham	8,270
University of Warwick	7,995
University of Greenwich	6,555
University of Leeds	6,415
University of the Arts, London	6,350
London School of Economics and Political Science	6,255
University of Oxford	6,220
London Metropolitan University	6,215
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	6,010
University of Birmingham	6,000
University of Sheffield	5,875
Kings College London	5,810
University of Cambridge	5,795
University of Bedfordshire	5,650
University of Westminster	5,640
Middlesex University	5,600
University of East London	5,470
City University London	5,345
University of Hertfordshire	5,245
University of Southampton	5,230
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	4,860
Kingston University	4,830
Coventry University	4,765
University of Surrey	4,655
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	4,480
Brunei University	4,455
Sheffield Hallam University	4,370
University of Sunderland	4,350

[1] Covers full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments in all years of study.
[2] Covers students domiciled in European Union (EU) countries other than the United Kingdom and non-EU countries.
Note:
Figures in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Overseas Trade: Libya

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to encourage trade and investment between the UK and Libya. [70541]

Mr Prisk: Through UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) we are focusing on the key commercial needs in post-conflict Libya, supporting the return to normality in the country. UKTI staff will shortly resume work in Tripoli. In due course we will again offer the full range of UKTI services for British companies seeking to do business in Libya, including support for trade missions. UK Trade and Investment has invited key British firms to a conference on 27 September to address the reconstruction needs in Libya.

Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he plans to assign to ensuring that businesses understand the implications of proposed pension changes to be implemented in 2012. [71008]

Steve Webb *[holding answer 12 September 2011:* I have been asked to reply.

The Pensions Regulator is responsible for employer compliance for the introduction of automatic enrolment duties and is planning to spend £1.7 million this financial year and £2.6 million next year on external communications. From 2013-14 onwards the spend is estimated at around £1 million annually. In addition employers will be made aware of their duties through registration documentation that they will receive from the regulator.

DWP will complement TPR employer communications in the run-up to October 2012, focusing on small and medium employers and spending in the region of £1.8 million to inform businesses of pension changes. This includes helping SMEs understand automatic enrolment, and enabling employers to provide information that is needed to give to their employees about automatic enrolment.

DWP is planning to continue with proactive communications beyond October 2012 to support roll-out of automatic enrolment, and fully costed plans will be developed nearer the time.

Renewable Energy: Research

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent on renewable energy research and development by the research councils since May 2010. [70199]

Mr Willetts: The total expenditure by the RCUK Energy Programme[1] for renewable energy research and development, including hydrogen and fuel cells, was £62 million for the financial year 2010-11.

Expenditure for the financial year 2011-12 will be available in April 2012.

[1] Led by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the RCUK Energy Programme brings together the work in this area of EPSRC and that of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

Workplace Disputes

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department plans to publish *(a)* the responses to its Resolving Workplace Disputes consultation and *(b)* its response to the consultation. [71984]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills intends to publish the Government's response to the Resolving Workplace Disputes consultation later this autumn.

We do not intend to publish individual responses, but we will make them publicly available.

Resource Accounting and Budgeting

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, how many representations he has received on the Government's estimate of the Resource Accounting and Budgeting charge in each month since December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [71445]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has no record of any representations received on the Government's estimate of the Resource Accounting and Budgeting charge since December 2010.

Retail Trade: Companies

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to prevent Jersey-based internet retail companies having a significant advantage over high-street shops in England; and if he will make a statement. [70786]

Mr Prisk: As part of Budget 2011 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that legislation would be introduced in Finance Bill 2011 to lower the Low Value Consignment Relief (LVCR) threshold, below which goods imported from outside the EU (including the Channel Islands) are VAT-free, from £18 to £15 with effect from November 2011. The Government will also explore options with the European Commission to limit the scope of the relief so that it can no longer be exploited for a purpose for which it was not intended. The Government will revisit the level of the LVCR in Budget 2012, if discussions with the European Commission do not produce a workable solution to the problem of exploitation of the relief.

Rolling Stock: East Midlands

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of future prospects for the train building supply chain in the East Midlands; [71161]

(2) what support his Department *(a)* has and *(b)* plans to provide to Bombardier Transportation's supply chain in the 2011-12 financial year; [71162]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the risks to the train building supply chain in the UK since January 2011; and if he will publish any such assessments. [71164]

Mr Prisk: No such assessments have been carried out. However on 5 July the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), created an Economic Response Task Force to fully understand and mitigate the economic impact of job losses at Bombardier, its supply chain and the local communities.

The Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), have asked their officials to work together with the sector and key delivery partners, such as UK Trade and Investment, to support the train manufacturing sector and the wider rail supply chain in securing more sustainable UK jobs through clearly identified business opportunities such as the Intercity Express programme, Crossrail and High Speed 2.

Additionally the Department's Solutions for Business offers a range of publically funded products and services designed to help businesses to overcome key challenges and—through UK Trade and Investment—explore export opportunities.

Scientific Advisers

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department's chief scientific adviser left his post; when he expects his replacement to be appointed; and by what means he has been provided with scientific advice during the period the post has been vacant. [71671]

Mr Willetts: Professor Brian Collins, the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Business, Innovation and Skills, completed his three year contract on 31 May 2011. A recruitment process for the new CSA is currently ongoing in line with the Civil Service Code and is being jointly administered with the Department for Transport (DfT). BIS expects to announce the name of the successful candidate before the end of the year.

To provide support to the new CSA and help cover the interregnum, the Department is recruiting a new senior civil servant Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser who will be supported by a core team and provide leadership, as BIS Head of Science and Engineering

Profession, to around 183 individuals in BIS who are members of the Government Science and Engineering (GSE) community. BIS expects to announce the name of the successful candidate before the end of October. In the meantime, the CSA team and the Department continues to source advice from this network and from BIS's wide range of partner organisations, such as the research councils, the Intellectual Property Office, the National Measurement Office and the Technology Strategy Board to ensure that the Department meets its priorities and key deliverables. The Government Office for Science has also offered to provide backup advice, through the network of CSAs and elsewhere until the CSA is in post.

Small Businesses: Civil Disorder

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support businesses whose earnings have been reduced as a result of the August 2011 public disorder. [70789]

Mr Prisk: The £20 million High Street Support scheme announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 11 August will support businesses affected by the recent disturbances. It will help them to get back up and running quickly, for instance if assistance is needed with business clear-up, replacement of equipment, or costs of temporary accommodation. This includes help with cash flow while insurance claims are being made, staff costs incurred while the business is affected by temporary closure, and many costs not fully covered by insurance. Local authorities will also be able to use the fund to cover the full costs of business rate hardship relief for affected business up to the end of the financial year.

Government recognise that the impact on business will continue beyond this immediate recovery period. We continue to work together with local enterprise partnerships, local authorities and trade and business organisations to identify what longer term help is needed.

South East England Development Agency

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many jobs the South East England Development Agency has created since its inception. [71930]

Mr Prisk: The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) records the number of 'Jobs Created or Safeguarded' as a result of the agency's intervention. SEEDA would be unable to identify the number of 'Jobs Created' from the total figures available for the output 'Jobs Created or Safeguarded' without incurring disproportionate costs.

On an annual basis SEEDA agreed output targets with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and a report of progress against core output targets is included within SEEDA's Annual Report and Accounts which are publicly available via its website:

http://www.seeda.co.uk/news-and-publications/Publications

For ease of reference we have extracted data relating to the 'Jobs Created or Safeguarded' output and provide these data in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of Jobs created or safeguarded*[1]
2011-12	[2]254
2010-11	3,489
2009-10	10,138
2008-09	8,057
2007-08	7,569
2006-07	5,667
2005-06	4,240
2004-05	5,121
2003-04	2,970
2002-03	2,307
2001-02	2,341
2000-01	[3]16,476.5
1999-2000	[3]8,310.5
1998-99	[3]5,421

[1] 'Jobs Created' are measured in full time equivalent posts (30 or more working hours per week) and the job must be considered to be permanent (i.e. have a life expectancy of over 12 months). To qualify as a 'Job Safeguarded' the post must be a permanent, paid, full time equivalent (FTE) job which is at risk (i.e. forecast to be lost within 12 months).

[2] 2011/12 figures cover period to end of June 2011.

[3] On 1 April 2002 all Regional Development Agencies adopted a revised process for reporting outputs. Prior to that point SEEDA counted gross output achievement only, which included indirect outputs and those provided by other public funding.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has provided assistance to directors of adult social services to ensure that new operators of former Southern Cross care homes are financially viable. [67467]

Mr Davey: The Department has not given assistance to the directors of adult social services. The Department has had significant involvement in advising the Department of Health on the commercial aspects of Southern Cross.

Student Numbers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will list the 30 universities or higher education institutions with the highest *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of UK-domiciled students; and if he will make a statement. [69048]

Mr Willetts: The thirty English higher education institutions with the highest proportion and number of UK-domiciled enrolments are shown in tables 1 and 2 respectively. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled enrolments[1] Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage of enrolments who were UK-domiciled*
Open University[2]	99.9
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	98.8
University Campus Suffolk	98.6

Table 1: English higher education institutions with the highest proportion of UK-domiciled enrolments[1] Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*Percentage of enrolments who were UK-domiciled*
Newman University College	98.3
University of Cumbria	97.9
Norwich University College of the Arts	97.8
University of Chichester	97.8
Edge Hill University	97.8
Bath Spa University	97.4
Leeds Trinity University College	97.2
University of Chester	97.1
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	96.2
York St John University	96.2
Harper Adams University College	95.6
St Georges Hospital Medical School	95.5
Leeds College of Music	95.2
University of Winchester	94.6
University College Falmouth	94.0
University of Worcester	93.9
Liverpool Hope University	92.9
Canterbury Christ Church University	92.8
University of Plymouth	92.6
University of Lincoln	92.6
Birkbeck College	92.4
University of Huddersfield	92.4
Leeds Metropolitan University	91.8
University of Teesside	91.7
Roehampton University	91.0
De Montfort University	91.0
Writtle College	90.9

Note:

Percentages in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population arid are given to one decimal place.

[1] Covers full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments In all years of study.

[2] The majority of Open University students domiciled outside the UK are recorded on the HESA Aggregate Overseas Return rather than the student record as they are distance learners who remain in their home country and do not come to the UK to study. The percentages shown in this table are based on student record figures only and exclude the Aggregate Overseas Return.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest number of UK-domiciled enrolments[1] Academic year 2009/10

Institution	*UK-domiciled enrolments*
Open University	209,415
Manchester Metropolitan University	32,260
Sheffield Hallam University	31,045
University of Manchester	30,485
University of Plymouth	29,820
University of the West of England, Bristol	29,715
University of Central Lancashire	28,630
University of Leeds	27,165
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	26,565
University of Teesside	26,255
University of Nottingham	25,850
Leeds Metropolitan University	25,580
Edge Hill University	24,770
University of Birmingham	24,130
Nottingham Trent University	23,900
Liverpool John Moores University	22,585
University of Hertfordshire	22,405
Kingston University	22,250
University of Greenwich	22,250
London South Bank University	22,225
Birmingham City University	22,035
University of East London	21,465
University of Warwick	20,875
University of Huddersfield	20,450
De Montfort University	20,430
University of Sheffield	20,095
University of Hull	19,495
University of Wolverhampton	19,325
University of Portsmouth	19,020
Staffordshire University	18,775

Table 2: English higher education institutions with the highest number of UK-domiciled enrolments[1] Academic year 2009/10
Institution *UK-domiciled enrolments*

Note:

Figures in the table are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five.

[1] Covers full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments in all years of study.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Students: Loans

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of people taking out student loans he estimates will repay *(a)* the whole amount and *(b)* a partial amount. [71766]

Mr Willetts: We currently estimate that of the new students starting courses from September 2012 onwards, around 60% of those taking student loans will repay the balance of the loan in full, while around 40% will have some of their loan written off. Loans are written off 30 years after the borrower becomes liable to repay or on the death or permanent disability of the borrower.

These figures are consistent with our estimate that the resource accounting and budgeting charge for the loans—representing the cost of both write-offs and interest subsidies—will be around 30% of the face value of loans issued.

All of the above estimates are for full time English students at UK institutions and full time EU students at English institutions.

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the criteria used by the Student Loans Company to determine whether a student seeking means-tested financial support is an independent student. [72042]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company uses criteria set out in the Education (Student Support) Regulations to determine whether a student seeking means-tested financial support is an independent student. These regulations are reviewed on an annual basis, and, following the most recent review the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 were laid before Parliament on 11 August 2011. These regulations did not make any changes to the criteria to be used by the Student Loans Company in determining whether a student seeking means-tested financial support is an independent student or not.

Technology: Greater London

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much expenditure his Department incurred in developing the Tech City website. [70565]

Mr Prisk: Tech City is home to one of the largest concentrations of digital technology companies in Europe. The website is an integral element in the overall strategy to promote Tech City to investors, entrepreneurs and establish businesses. The costs incurred for the website to 31 August are estimated at £53,351 comprising £37,000 for website development, £9,595 for content, and £6,756 for security and penetration testing.

Thameslink: Siemens

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what work the Economic Response Task Force has undertaken as a result of the award of the Thameslink contract to Siemens. [70790]

Mr Prisk: The Economic Task Force, announced on 5 July, has begun work by focusing on support for the affected work force. It is working with Job Centre Plus and the Skills Funding Agency to deliver Rapid Response Services which aim to secure new jobs or training for those at risk of redundancy.

The task force has also begun work with partners to ensure that impacts on supply chain companies are mitigated. This work is being led by the Chamber of Commerce and the Derby and Derbyshire Rail Forum.

UK Trade & Investment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to record the originating location of inquiries made to UK Trade & Investment. [67272]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) records location information for service deliveries and significant interactions with businesses on a customer relationship management system. UKTI has no plans to record the location of all telephone inquiries.

Universities

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency applied to enter university in each of the last five academic years; how many such applicants were successful; and what proportion of these were from disadvantaged backgrounds. [71543]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (eg they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants domiciled in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS, by area background, years of entry 2006 to 2010

	Applicants	Percentage of total	Accepted applicants	Percentage of total
2006				
Disadvantaged[1]	492	86	365	86
Other	79	14	61	14
Total	571	100	426	100
2007				
Disadvantaged[1]	519	88	388	88
Other	72	12	53	12
Total	591	100	441	100
2008				
Disadvantaged[1]	605	86	468	86
Other	97	14	76	14
Total	702	100	544	100
2009				
Disadvantaged[1]	631	84	480	85
Other	120	16	88	15
Total	751	100	568	100
2010				
Disadvantaged[1]	796	86	556	85
Other	126	14	96	15
Total	922	100	652	100

[1] Derived from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)'s POLAR2 measure. For the purposes of their funding allocations HEFCE treat entrants from the most disadvantaged 40% of neighbourhoods as 'disadvantaged'
http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/fund
HEFCE uses two different groupings of areas to define disadvantage: one based on the participation rates of young (19 and under) people in HE (which is used by HEFCE when looking at young full-time entrants); and one based on the proportion of adults who hold HE qualifications (which is used by HEFCE when looking at part-time and mature full-time entrants). Because this table includes applicants and accepted applicants of all ages, disadvantage is defined by quintiles 1 and 2 of the HE qualified adults measure.
Source:
UCAS

Veterinary Medicine: Education

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the amount of time allocated to teaching related to exotic animals in Government accredited veterinary schools in comparison to other EU member states. [70735]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* I can confirm that no assessment has been made of the time allocated to teaching related to exotic animals in veterinary schools in comparison with other EU member states.

Higher Education veterinary schools are independent autonomous bodies whose courses will reflect the requirements of the relevant professional body that provides accreditation.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Friday 16 September and Monday 3 October 2011

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the visit of *(a)* the hon. Member for Bournemouth East, *(b)* (i) officials and (ii) special advisers of his Department and *(c)* James Murdoch to Afghanistan between 17 and 21 January 2011; what the purpose of the visit was; and if he will make a statement. [71441]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Neither the Ministry of Defence nor Her Majesty's Government have organised or paid for such a visit.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of Afghan Village Stability Operations; and what support his Department has provided to such operations. [71211]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* UK forces do not provide direct routine support to Village Stability Operations, nor does the UK assess the overall effectiveness of Village Stability Operations.

Afghanistan: Police

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Afghan Local Police Programme; and what support his Department has provided to this programme. [71210]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* UK forces, in co-ordination with the Provincial Reconstruction Team and at the request of the Government of Afghanistan, have supported the establishment of seven Afghan Local Police (ALP) sites within central Helmand. UK support includes assistance with recruitment, training and mentoring.

We regularly review progress of these sites. The latest review concluded that progress is encouraging, with the capabilities and effectiveness of the ALP seeing steady improvement.

Armed Forces: Domestic Violence

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision he has made to tackle domestic violence in the homes of veterans returning from combat zones. [71042]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has produced guidance on the handling of cases involving domestic violence for the chain of command and specialist staff. A copy of this guidance (Joint Service Publication 913) is available in the Library of the House. The MOD is represented on the Home Office's Delivery Board for the Government's Action Plan for violence against women and girls, and work is currently being taken forward to raise awareness in the armed forces.

Decompression is one element of the complete operational stress management package which improves the quality of homecoming by giving personnel the opportunity to rationalise, contextualise and talk through their experiences, as well as receive welfare briefings and time to unwind.

Welfare information and help is also available to families, drawing attention to what can be expected when their spouses return. Importantly, it provides signs of stress and behaviours to look for and how to get help if it is needed.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Department's Business Plan 2011-2015, how much has been saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the reduction of heavy artillery armoured vehicles (AS90) by around 35 per cent. [71298]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 12 September 2011]:* Total savings over the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 are expected to be in the region of £2 million, mostly Resource DEL. These savings reflect a reduction in AS90 numbers and track activity.

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Challenger main battle tanks are held in long-term storage in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Germany. [71932]

Peter Luff: The number of Challenger 2 main battle tanks held in long-term storage in the UK and Germany is shown in the following table:

Location	*Number of tanks*
United Kingdom	59
Germany	94

Baha Mousa Inquiry

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral statement of 8 September 2011, on the Baha Mousa inquiry, whether he is satisfied that his Department has the legal powers necessary to remove service pensions from any serving or former army personnel who are *(a)* convicted as a result of prosecution arising from Baha Mousa's death and *(b)* obstruct or fail to co-operate with investigations or prosecutions arising from Baha Mousa's death. [71593]

Dr Fox: I am satisfied that in relation to a member or ex-member of the regular Army who is convicted of an offence connected to their service, where I as Secretary of State for Defence am satisfied that the offence was gravely injurious to the defence, security or other interests of the state, the Ministry of Defence has legal powers to withhold benefits in respect of a service pension.

The relevant provisions are contained in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 (Part J) and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (Part J) under which members and ex-members of the armed forces are entitled to a service pension. Whether any specific conviction connected to service satisfies the conditions must be judged on a case by case basis.

Convictions connected to service may include ones relating to obstructing an investigation or prosecution. However, if obstructing or failing to co-operate with an investigation or prosecution does not result in charges and a conviction, then the powers to withhold a pension will not be triggered.

Departmental Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular military, *(b)* Territorial Army and other part-time military and *(c)* civilian personnel were employed by his Department in (i) total, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber, (iii) North Yorkshire and (iv) City of York in each year since 1997. [71492]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is listed in the following tables—the symbol n/a denotes that information is not available for these years.

Total number of service personnel, voluntary reserve and Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilians as at 1 April each year is as follows:

Table 1

			Volunteer reservists		
	Regular service	*Naval reserves*	*Territorial Army*	*Royal Auxiliary Air Force*	*Civilian*
1997	210,820	4,260	n/a	2,020	133,330
1998	210,140	4,440	n/a	2,490	126,290
1999	208,640	4,520	n/a	2,620	123,010
2000	207,610	4,820	n/a	2,740	121,290
2001	205,650	4,830	n/a	2,570	118,170
2002	204,680	4,980	n/a	2,590	110,090
2003	206,910	4,910	n/a	2,580	107,580
2004	207,020	4,480	38,320	2,580	109,050
2005	201,100	4,360	37,260	2,450	108,470
2006	195,850	n/a	38,460	2,300	103,380
2007	190,670	3,680	36,790	2,160	97,690
2008	186,910	3,580	35,020	2,290	89,500
2009	188,600	3,630	35,320	2,580	86,620
2010	191,660	3,590	33,130	2,700	85,850
2011	186,360	3,230	31,420	2,450	83,060

The location details for volunteer reserve forces are not available. The following table lists the total number of service personnel, and MOD civilians, in Yorkshire and the Humber as at 1 April each year since 2001, the earliest date that figures are available:

Table 2

	Regular service	*Civilian*
2001	n/a	2,880
2002	13,760	2,840
2003	n/a	3,400
2004	n/a	3,770
2005	13,830	3,790
2006	13,040	3,700
2007	13,790	3,590
2008	13,530	3,560
2009	14,730	3,640
2010	15,230	3,720
2011	15,110	3,570

The location details for volunteer reserve forces are not available. The following table lists the total number of service personnel, and MOD civilians, in North Yorkshire as at 1 April each year since 2002, the earliest date that figures are available:

Table 3

	Regular service	*Civilian*
2002	12,000	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a
2005	12,690	n/a
2006	11,880	2,000
2007	12,540	1,980
2008	12,140	1,950
2009	13,310	1,930
2010	13,500	1,960
2011	13,380	1,920

The location details for volunteer reserve forces are not available. The following table lists the total number of service personnel, and MOD civilians, in the city of York as at 1 April each year since 2002, the earliest date that figures are available:

Table 4

	Regular service	*Civilian*
2002	640	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	n/a
2005	730	n/a
2006	710	760
2007	800	650

Table 4

	Regular service	*Civilian*
2008	840	650
2009	880	680
2010	830	710
2011	780	640

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people at each *(a)* rank and *(b)* grade there are in his Department's Communications Department. [72063]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: The Directorate Media and Communication (DMC) is responsible for internal and external communications at the departmental level within the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

DMC staff fulfil various roles including press officer, public relations, internal communication, defence publishing (news and publications), photography, graphics and some internet services.

The following table lists by rank and grade the posts in DMC as at 31 March 2011 as well as the number of posts planned to be cut by 1 April 2012.

Rank/grade	*Posts as at 31 March 2011-10-03*	*Posts planned to be cut by 1 April 2012*
Civilian posts		
Administrative Assistant (AA)/E2 grade	1	0
Administrative Officer (AO)/EI grade	12	2
Executive Officer (EO)/D grade	14	1
Information Officer (IO)/C2 grade	33	5
Senior Information Officer (SIO)/C1 grade	22	1
Grade 7/B2 grade	13	8
Grade 6/B1 grade	3	0
Senior Civil Service (SCS) 1	2	0
SCS 2	1	0
Military posts		
Senior Non Commissioned Officer	5	1
Officer Level (OF) 3 (e.g. Lieutenant Commander Royal Navy (RN))	13	1
OF4 (e.g. Commander RN)	10	0
OF5 (e.g. Captain RN)	4	0
OF6.(e.g. Commodore RN)	1	0

In addition, the Defence Media and Operations Centre (DMOC) also falls within the line management chain of the Director Media and Communications. There are no cuts to DMOC posts planned for this financial year. DMOC co-ordinates, develops and delivers media training and education across the MOD. It also contains a team which provides media support in operational theatres.

The following table lists by rank and grade the posts in the DMOC as at 31 March 2011.

Rank/grade	*Posts as at 31 March 2011*
Civilian posts	
AA/E2 grade	1
IO/C2 grade	1
SIO/C1 grade	1
Grade 7/B2 grade	1
Military posts	
Junior Non Commissioned Officer	13
Senior Non Commissioned Officer	9
OF2 (e.g. Lieutenant RN)	7
OF3 (e.g. Lieutenant Commander RN)	7
OF4 (e.g. Commander RN)	2
OF5 (e.g. Captain RN)	1

Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) Wales in each of the last three years. [72005]

Peter Luff: No authoritative figures are available.

Information which we do possess relates only to contracts administered through our central system, and the limitations of data quality, particularly in relation to the size of the company and the geographical location of the contract, mean that figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Even if it were possible to produce them, these figures would exclude purchases made through the Government Procurement Card, miscellaneous transactions, and payments for goods and services made under local arrangements. In these cases, neither the location of work, nor whether a supplier is a small and medium-size enterprise (SME) is recorded.

Furthermore, the information would also exclude contracts and payments made to SMEs by the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s prime contractors through their supply chains, which are extensive and include a high proportion of SMEs.

However, noting this context, and based on an approximately 10% sample of the circa 6,000 new contracts placed directly by the MOD in 2010-11 across the UK, we estimate that 2,370 have been awarded to English-based SMEs, 50 to those in Scotland, 20 in Northern Ireland, and 60 in Wales. There is no central store of data which would allow the calculation of a separate estimate for agencies.

Our Equipment, Support and Technology Green Paper recognised the innovation and flexibility that small businesses bring to defence and security and sought views on ways to improve their access to contract opportunities. Our response will be set out in a White Paper before the end of the year but we have already established an SME forum to provide small companies and their representative bodies with regular and direct access to Ministers.

Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* has been saved and *(b)* is projected to be saved in each financial year of the spending review period in (i) Resource DEL, (ii) Capital DEL, (iii) annually-managed expenditure and (iv) in total from contract renegotiations with defence industry. [71278]

Dr Fox: Progress on commercial expenditure reduction relating to the Strategic Defence and Security Review has included the implementation of nearly 200 commercial saving options presented in the 2011 financial Planning Round. We are expecting the process of contract renegotiation to continue until 2012. Until this is complete, it is not possible to give the figures requested.

Our focus has been on the contracts and commercial options that will deliver the highest savings in the early years of the spending review period. The Ministry of Defence has already renegotiated around 30 contracts relating to the Nimrod and Harrier programmes.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much is projected to be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from implementing changes to service and civilian allowances in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [71280]

Dr Fox: Savings over the next four years are expected to be:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Service Allowances Resource DEL (near cash)	100	170	230	250
Civilian Allowances Resource DEL (near cash)	50	50	50	55

These figures are planning assumptions, rounded to the nearest £5 million, and are subject to further work including consultation in the detail with the trade unions for civilian allowances. There are no capital or other DEL savings.

Operational allowances are not affected by the proposed changes to the level of entitlement.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the his Department's business plan 2011-15, how much is projected to be saved in *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL, *(c)* annually-managed expenditure and *(d)* in total from the reduction of the non-deployable administrative structure of the services in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [71291]

Dr Fox: Non-front-line costs, such as the non-deployable administrative structure of the services, are not routinely calculated. The Ministry of Defence is committed to saving at least £4.3 billion in activities which have been identified as non-front-line over the spending review period. Progress against this target will be reported in the Department's business plan.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department expects to save through administrative cost savings in respect of *(a)* Resource DEL, *(b)* Capital DEL and *(c)* AME in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [71693]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 13 September 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is revising its administrative costs regime upwards to reflect the outcomes of the strategic defence and security review. This work is ongoing. The MOD is committed to saving at least one-third of this new baseline by 2014-15, which will deliver at least £800 million of savings.

Recruitment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on recruitment advertising for civil service posts since May 2010. [71070]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* There has been a freeze on external recruitment to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) since May 2010, other than for business-critical posts and posts paid for in full by other parties, for example United States visiting forces and NATO support facilities.

The amount spent on recruitment advertising since May 2010 is £484,353.01. This does not include expenditure by the Trading Funds and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. A large number of posts are for Service Children's Education to provide teachers overseas but also covers critical medical posts (including doctors and nurses) as well as a number of senior civil service posts critical to driving forward our reform agenda.

Posts have been advertised across a range of specialist media. Jobs that are open to external applicants are also advertised on the civil service jobs website.

Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest redundancy payment was made to a civil servant in his Department since May 2010; [71043]

(2) what the largest lump sum redundancy payment was made to a civil servant in his Department since May 2010. [71044]

Mr Robathan: Information on early exit/redundancy compensation packages paid to civil servants under the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme is contained in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts (ARA). The relevant table appears on page 86 of the 2010-11 ARA, which can be found on the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports1011/

A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

The table presents the value of compensation packages in 'cost bands'. During the period April 2010 to March 2011, the lowest values were below £10,000 and the largest single package was valued at between £300,000 and £350,000. The largest package includes ongoing and additional pension costs, not just a redundancy package, as the individual was a senior civil servant taking early retirement.

Figures for the period April 2011 to March 2012 will be published in next year's ARA.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on redundancy payments for its civil servants since May 2010. [71057]

Mr Robathan: Although the information requested is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, the Department's annual report and accounts (ARA) includes details on early exit/redundancy compensation packages paid to civil servants under the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. The relevant table appears on page 86 of the 2010-11 ARA which can be found on the following website:

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/Corporate Publications/AnnualReports

A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

The table includes the total resource cost of all paid releases made during the period of the accounts. This includes medical retirements as well as voluntary releases and redundancies. For the period April 2010 to March 2012 the total resource cost was £26.33 million.

It is important to note that this figure does not represent the in-year cost of payments but the capitalised cost and includes ongoing payments where compensation is made in the form of enhanced pensions. This figure therefore represents the full cost of liabilities incurred during the year.

The equivalent figure for 2009-10 was £53.42 million.

Ex-servicemen

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed services personnel receive advice on drug or alcohol use prior to leaving the armed forces. [71998]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* All service leavers receive a vulnerability assessment as part of their first line (within unit) resettlement briefing. Where an individual is identified as vulnerable to social exclusion, including early service leavers, they are directed to additional support available via the Career Transition Partnership contract.

Furthermore, all service leavers receive a discharge information package which contains various leaflets and information, including details of the National Drugs Helpline and the Government-sponsored Drinkline.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether former armed services personnel routinely receive a resettlement assessment during the first six months after leaving the armed forces. [71997]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* It is mandatory for all service leavers to receive a resettlement assessment prior to discharge. Service leavers do not receive a further mandated resettlement assessment during the first six months after leaving but are entitled to access support during that period, which may include a resettlement assessment. For those who have served four or more years, support includes personal one-to-one consultancy advice on career and job finding for up to two years after leaving. For all service leavers, lifetime post-resettlement support is available from the Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA) and Officers' Association (OA). Furthermore, all service leavers who use the Career Transition Partnership (those having served four or more years) are invited to complete resettlement questionnaires six, 12 and 24 months after leaving, depending on their length of service.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed services personnel routinely undergo a psychological assessment immediately prior to leaving the armed forces. [72000]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* Until now, service leavers have not been subject to a routine structured psychological assessment as part of their discharge medical examination. However, in his report on the mental health of the armed forces, "Fighting Fit", my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) recommended that a mental health assessment be included in the discharge medicals. The Defence medical services have recently concluded a three-month pilot of an enhanced mental health assessment in four units across the armed forces and are now evaluating the findings. The current intention is to begin rolling out the mental health assessment into discharge protocols later this year.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to publish the health audit of nuclear test veterans carried out by Miles and Green Associates. [71967]

Mr Robathan: We hope to be able to publish the Health Needs Audit Report later this year.

Medals

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 867W, on medals, for what reason the chairman and secretary are the only members of the Polar Medal Assessment Committee. [72101]

Mr Robathan: Further to the answer I gave on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 867W, the UK Polar Medal Assessment Committee (UKPMAC) is an independent committee that makes recommendations for the award of the polar medal to Her Majesty the Queen by the Secretary of State for Defence. In addition to the chairman and secretary, who are members of staff at the UK Hydrographic Office, the UKPMAC has an additional eight independent members. All UKPMAC members are experts in polar matters and nine of the 10 members are in their own right holders of the polar medal. The names of the independent members of the UKPMAC are not in the public domain to protect the integrity of the process.

Military Bases

Mr Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the *(a)* Dreghorn and *(b)* Redford Barracks will close; [71980]

(2) which buildings at *(a)* Dreghorn and *(b)* Redford Barracks are listed buildings; [71981]

(3) when he expects the development of a new barracks at the Kirkliston Airfield to begin. [71982]

Nick Harvey: It is too early to say precisely how Kirknewton Airfield will be developed or when Dreghorn and Redford Barracks will close. Detailed planning work is being undertaken by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in conjunction with the Army and Royal Air Force.

The following buildings at Dreghorn and Redford Barracks are listed: Redford Cavalry Barracks with Officers' Mess, Balaclava House, Guard House Gates, Gatepiers, Sergeants' Mess Former Band Block, Education Block, Former Stables, Stores and other ancillary buildings, Dreghorn Barracks, Guard House, Barrack Block, Band Block and Battalion Headquarters.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the cost effectiveness of Typhoon sorties of proximity to a diversion airfield at *(a)* RAF Leuchars and *(b)* RAF Lossiemouth; and if he will make a statement. [71631]

Nick Harvey: I refer my right hon. and learned Friend the Member to the answer I gave on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 84-85W.

The availability and proximity of diversion airfields was taken into account in the basing review. Both stations are able to use a range of airfields both nearby and further afield, depending on the circumstances.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 76W, on Air Force: military bases, what estimate he has made of the training value per flying hour of Typhoon *(a)* currently based at RAF Leuchars and *(b)* to be based at RAF Lossiemouth from 2014 in relation to (i) air/land integration training areas in the UK, (ii) other existing training areas and (iii) combined training with European partners. [71649]

Nick Harvey: The point of origin or destination does not determine the training value of the sortie and this is the same answer regardless of the specific type of aircraft.

RAF Leuchars: European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items of mission-specific Typhoon infrastructure have been installed at RAF Leuchars; and how much each such item cost. [71349]

Nick Harvey: The project costs of mission-specific Typhoon infrastructure installed at RAF Leuchars as at 12 September 2011 are detailed in the following table:

Type of infrastructure	*Total cost (£)*
6 Squadron Headquarters Refurbishment	308,000
6 Squadron Hangar Refurbishment	519,000
Ground Support System Annex Refurbishment	41,000
Hardened Aircraft Shelters—Typhoon Quick Reaction Alert Refurbishment	259,000
Emulated Deployable Cockpit Trainer Installation	134,000
Typhoon Propulsion Support Facility	408,000
Survival Equipment New Build	167,000
Typhoon Ejection Seat Store New Build	442,000
Typhoon Availability Service/Logistics Squadron Headquarters Refurbishment	49,000

Note: All figures have been rounded to the nearest £000.

Reserve Forces: Taxation

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many tax-free bounties were awarded to reservists in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales in each of the last five years. [72004]

Mr Robathan: There are different types of bounty paid to reservists in all three services, and these are paid to entitled individuals who complete the specified annual training requirement.

The total number of service personnel who have received a bounty payment in the last five financial years is detailed in the following table.

Financial year	*Number*
2007-08[1]	330
2008-09	22,660
2009-10	23,180
2010-11	22,860
2011-12[2]	18,640

[1] The information held for financial year 2007-08 is incomplete due to difficulties associated with the Joint Personnel Administrative (JPA) system. Very few payments were processed using JPA in that year.

[2] Up to 15 September 2011.

A breakdown by England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information prior to financial year 2007-08 was kept on the single service legacy systems and therefore could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dogs

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dog wardens are employed in England and Wales by each local authority. [71661]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally. Collating this information would incur disproportionate cost.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Standards

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the robustness of quality assessment measures covering apprenticeships lasting six months or less. [70916]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 2011]:* The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) sets the standards for the delivery of the apprenticeship programme to ensure successful outcomes for individuals and employers and demonstrate good value for money for Government investment.

The revised statement on the Quality of Apprenticeship Delivery Models, published by NAS in August 2011, gives increased clarity on what is acceptable in terms of the employment status of the apprentice, minimum hours worked, funding of wages and the length of apprenticeship programmes. It also includes a statement that the length of stay for an apprenticeship must be sufficient for the apprentice to have time to embed their understanding of the job role and be competent in applying the skills required.

Working alongside NAS, the Skills Funding Agency works closely with training providers, colleges and employers to monitor delivery of the apprenticeship programme and ensure standards set by NAS are met. Where apprenticeship provision does not meet the required standards, ultimately funding will be withdrawn.

As Minister responsible for apprenticeships, I meet regularly with the chief executive and chief operating officer of the National Apprenticeship Service to discuss the quality and delivery of the apprenticeship programme. Our most recent meeting focused on maintaining existing record levels of growth and ensuring a high quality experience for both the employer and the apprentice. At this meeting NAS described their work to ensure that quality standards and requirements for funding were clear and fully understood by the sector.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial assistance is available to small colleges for the purposes of attaining accreditation by the Quality Assurance Agency to take non-EU students; and if he will make a statement. [70705]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* The UK Border Agency has recently revised its educational oversight requirements for colleges wishing to recruit non-EU students. Privately-funded colleges, which are not inspected by Ofsted, are now required to be vetted by either the Quality Assurance Agency (for colleges offering predominately higher education courses) or the Independent Schools Inspectorate (for colleges offering predominately further education courses).

There is no financial assistance available to privately-funded colleges for this process.

Inward Investment

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage global business to invest in the UK. [71108]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* Recent steps to ensure the UK retains a strong flow of high value investment projects include:

the introduction of a more integrated national business model to support inward investment, offering tailored support and a single point of contact for overseas businesses;

investing heavily in the Research and Development base, despite public spending constraints;

adopting a genuinely cross-Government approach to our strategic relationship management of key global investors;

ensuring that the UK's tax regime and planning regulations build investor confidence;

ensuring our regulatory system is proportionate and encourages growth; and

encouraging specific infrastructure investment.

Learning and Skills Council: Government Procurement Card

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the *(a)* purchase date, *(b)* transaction amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry of each individual transaction undertaken by the Learning and Skills Council using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [71701]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* This Government are committed to transparency and we believe the information regarding Government Procurement Cards (GPC) for this financial year is the most relevant.

The Skills Funding Agency will be publishing GPC transactions for this financial year. The information for April to June will be published on the agency's website before the end of September. In October the agency will publish July's transaction data and each month thereafter updated information will be made available.

The information supplied will give the description of the type of expenditure as used in the agency's accounting system.

The cost required to obtain, contextualise and report data for central Government Departments and their agencies from the last three years would exceed the cost limits of a freedom of information request or a parliamentary question.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on improving the regulation of aviation. [71803]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are currently undertaking a review of the existing stock of regulation with a view to removing over-burdensome regulatory legislation.

As part of this process, next year the public and businesses will be invited to put forward ideas for regulations in the aviation sector that might be amended or revoked so as to reduce their burden on the industry or to the public.

Aviation: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the potential additional costs to passengers of the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading System. [71936]

Mrs Villiers: The impact assessment for 'The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010' estimated that the inclusion of aviation in the EU ETS will increase average UK air fares by approximately 6% to 7% in the period between 2012 and 2020. This analysis is based on the assumption that airlines will pass on the additional costs of emissions trading to passengers. However, it was noted that there is significant uncertainty over the precise impact on all types of air fares.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies his Department has undertaken into the effects on human health of emissions from commercial aeroplanes. [70633]

Mrs Villiers: While the Department for Transport has undertaken no work specifically into the impact of emissions on human health, it has funded wider research into aviation emissions and air quality. The Government take the health impacts of air pollution seriously and rely on expert groups such as the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution to advise on these impacts.

Aviation: Working Hours

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Civil Aviation Authority on the Notice of Proposed Amendment on Flight Time Limitations. [72142]

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Civil Aviation Authority on the Notice of Proposed Amendment on Flight Time Limitations. [72233]

Mrs Villiers: My officials have regular discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority about the development of European requirements on aviation safety including those on flight time limitations.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with the US Federal Aviation Administration on the issue of pilot fatigue. [72143]

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with the US Federal Aviation Administration on pilot fatigue. [72232]

Mrs Villiers: At this stage in the development of the European requirements, neither the Department nor the Civil Aviation Authority has had any formal discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration on this subject.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the role of his Department is in establishing new flight time limitations for pilots; and if he will make a statement. [72144]

Mrs Villiers: The responsibility for establishing new requirements on flight time limitations for pilots rests with the European Commission, assisted by the European Aviation Safety Agency. The Department, taking account of advice from the Civil Aviation Authority, will put forward the UK's views on the proposed requirements. Ministers will determine how the UK will vote when a legislative proposal is made.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects new European flight time limitations for pilots to come into force. [72145]

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects European-wide flight time limitations for pilots to enter into force. [72234]

Mrs Villiers: We expect the Commission regulation giving effect to proposed requirements on flight and duty time limitations to come into force in the autumn of 2013. We expect that airlines will be given an additional period to transition to the new requirements.

Bus Services: Concessions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government plans to bring forward legislative proposals to permit the use of concessionary bus passes on community transport services. [72183]

Norman Baker: Some sectors of community transport, such as services provided under section 22 permits, are already eligible local bus services for the purposes of statutory concessionary travel, if they are sufficiently accessible to the public. Local authorities are also able to offer concessions on any form of community transport on a discretionary basis. There are no proposals to extend the scope of the mandatory bus travel concession further as this would have significant cost and operational implications.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effects of the withdrawal of the coach concessionary travel scheme on *(a)* passenger numbers and *(b)* coach services. [69806]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Following the 2010 spending review announcement, National Express said they were already planning for the removal of the coach concessionary fares scheme in October 2011 and would announce new products aimed at the over 60s and disabled travellers in due course. National Express said that they believed the financial impact of the scheme's removal was manageable and would be mitigated by their own plans.

A regulatory impact assessment relating to the ending of the Bus Service Operators Grant coach concession has been drafted and submitted to the Reducing Regulation Committee for clearance. The impact assessment will be published on the DFT website, and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House, when it is available.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the *(a)* number of coach services available and *(b)* the cost of coach fares of withdrawal of the coach concessionary travel scheme. [70428]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Following the 2010 spending review announcement, National Express said they were already planning for the removal of the coach concessionary fares scheme in October 2011 and would announce new products aimed at the over 60s and disabled travellers in due course. National Express said that they believed the financial impact of the scheme's removal was manageable and would be mitigated by their own plans.

A regulatory impact assessment relating to the ending of the Bus Service Operators Grant coach concession has been drafted and submitted to the Reducing Regulation Committee for clearance. The impact assessment will be published on the DFT website, and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House, when it is available.

Coaches: Older People

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with coach operating companies on the future of coach services for elderly people; and if he will make a statement. [71940]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* The Department has corresponded with coach operators who will be affected by the withdrawal of the Bus Service Operators Grant coach concession. Department for Transport officials have also held discussions with National Express—one of the operators affected by the phasing out of the concession.

The funding changes were announced as part of the 2010 spending review.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant from (i) his Department and (ii) each non-departmental body for which he is responsible since May 2010. [66317]

Norman Baker: The following table shows the number of people recruited by the Department for Transport, its non-departmental public bodies and seven Executive agencies since May 2010, and the number of departures under the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS).

	Number of people recruited	*Number of departures under CSCS*
Department for Transport (excluding agencies)	30	270
Agencies and non-departmental public bodies	[1]352	[2]285

[1] Includes frontline posts, eg driving instructors.

[2] 80 compulsory redundancies in non-departmental public bodies.

Except as indicated, all departures were on a voluntary basis.

Driving: Mobile Phones

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to deter drivers from using mobile phones while driving. [72160]

Mike Penning: The Department increased the penalties for drivers using a mobile phone in 2007. More recently in the Government's Strategic Framework for Road Safety (May 2011), we propose to increase the fine levels for road traffic fixed penalty notices, including mobile phones offences, as a means of deterring drivers from using their mobile phones whilst driving, and to bring this in line with other fixed penalties.

The police continue to enforce mobile phone offences. In 2009, 126,000 fixed penalty notices were issued for the offence, a rise of 8% from the previous year.

The Department's observational survey in 2009 gives a national perspective and showed that 1.4% of car drivers were using hand-held mobile phones. This is a 17% reduction since the penalties were raised.

We remain committed to ensuring that all regulations are effective.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many electric vehicles he estimates that there will be in the UK vehicle parc by 2020. [69546]

Norman Baker: Electric vehicles, along with other ultra-low emission vehicles, play an important role in the decarbonisation of UK road transport. The rate at which both the electric and other ultra-low emission vehicle market develops will be determined by a range of factors, such as consumer acceptance and oil prices, which are difficult to predict. Independent forecasts suggest that hundreds of thousands of ultra-low emission vehicles could be on the road in the period running up to 2020.

The Government have made over £400 million available to support the research, development, demonstration and use of ultra-low emission vehicles over the life of this Parliament and are committed to developing the early market for these vehicles.

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress he has made in implementing the Plugged-In Places programme. [71764]

Norman Baker: All eight Plugged-In Places projects are now up and running. The programme has more than trebled the number of recharging points in the UK. Over 4 million (15%) of drivers in Great Britain now live in local authority areas that have PIP-funded publicly accessible charging infrastructure.

Projects have made a number of major breakthroughs including installing the UK's first publicly accessible rapid chargers that can recharge vehicles in as little as 30 minutes. A number of the projects have also recently launched their membership schemes, e.g. 'Source London', 'Source East' and the Northern Ireland scheme.

In addition, thanks in part to market priming through the Plugged-In Places and a number of enabling steps set out in our June Infrastructure Strategy, a number of UK enterprises have recently announced plans to roll out additional infrastructure at sites across the country (eg Charge Master; and Ecotricity in Conjunction with Welcome Break).

We are putting in place systems to make the network easy to navigate and easy to access as set out in the strategy document published in June 2011.

Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the annual air traffic movements limit at Heathrow Airport. [71779]

Mrs Villiers: The current 480,000 air transport movement cap was set as a condition of the Terminal 5 planning consent in 2001. To change or remove the cap would require a planning application. The Government recently confirmed their intention to retain the cap in the context of their announcement on the conclusions of the South East Airports Taskforce.

High Speed 2

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on a direct link to Heathrow airport as part of the proposed High Speed 2 scheme. [71778]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Government published "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future" in February 2011. That set out proposals for a high speed rail network in a Y-shape from London to Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester with a direct connection to Heathrow airport and a link to HS1. The Government believe that there is strong strategic case for such a network as it would boost economic growth, spread prosperity and provide an attractive alternative to domestic aviation. Following the end of consultation on 29 July, we are considering the responses to consultation and expect to announce a decision on the way forward later in the year.

Motor Vehicles: Carbon Emissions

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to his Department's document, Road Vehicle Emission Factors 2009, what the *(a)* laden and *(b)* unladen full emissions profile per mile is of (i) diesel and (ii) petrol (A) 38 tonne heavy goods vehicles (HGV), (B) 44 tonne HGVs, (C) transit type vans and (D) family saloons. [68700]

Norman Baker: The Road Vehicle Emissions Factors 2009 research project provided recommendations on improving methodologies and some of the input data required to model national air pollutant emissions from road transport. To estimate UK average emissions profiles for different vehicle types requires these recommendations to be combined with UK fleet composition and total traffic activity data.

The following figures for oxides of nitrogen (NOx), particulate matter (PM_{10}), carbon monoxide (CO), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC) and methane (CH_4) emissions have been generated by the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, which AEA Technology produce under contract to DEFRA. This combines the 2009 emissions factors with national fleet and traffic data to produce estimates of total UK emissions. The CO_2 emissions figures are derived from DEFRA's greenhouse gas reporting guidelines, these use the 2009 emissions factors (along with fleet and traffic data) plus improved data on HGV CO_2 emissions from DFT freight surveys.

Grams/mile

						CO_2	
Vehicle	*NOx*	*PM_{10}*	*CO*	*NMVOC*	*CH_4*	*Laden*	*Unladen*
38T HGV	11.2	0.178	2.05	0.286	0.069	1,860	1,110
44T HGV	12.5	0.195	1.31	0.303	0.069	2,230	1,340
Petrol transit size van	1.14	0.005	16.0	1.36	0.036	413	
Diesel transit size van	1.37	0.122	0,852	0.139	0.004	432	
Petrol saloon	0.344	0.003	4.48	0.343	0.016	340	
Diesel saloon	0.712	0.065	0.13	0.05	0.002	288	

The 2009 emissions factors reflect average vehicle loading and do not provide corrections to adjust for different vehicle loading states. However, the greenhouse gas reporting guidelines do provide data for different loading states for HGVs (figures for other vehicle types reflect emissions at average loading).

It should be noted that some of the vehicle categories are not necessarily directly compatible, e.g. petrol vans appear to have lower CO_2 emissions than diesel vans suggesting that the petrol vans modelled are on average smaller and lighter than the average diesel vans modelled.

Motor Vehicles: Petrol

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues on and what other support it provides for the development of vehicles capable of replacing petrol and diesel fleet vehicles. [70979]

Norman Baker: The Government have made provision of over £400 million for measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies. These measures include support for consumer incentives, development of recharging infrastructure, a programme of research development and demonstration work and the Green Bus Fund. Further details of these programmes can be found at the Office for Low Emission Vehicles website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/olev

Network Rail

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent assessment of the requirement for a consumer champion for users of the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [71187]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport and the Office of Rail Regulation are considering the options for achieving an increased role for the regulator in protecting passenger and public interests. We expect proposals to be published later this year.

The Department for Transport also considered the future of Passenger Focus as part of the Public Bodies Review and concluded that it should be retained but with substantial reforms to reduce its cost to taxpayers while maintaining its core role as the statutory independent complaints body and passenger champion.

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on steps to increase the commercial revenue earned by Network Rail. [71800]

Mrs Villiers: It is a priority for the Government to improve the value for money the railway offers for taxpayers and fare payers. To that end, we continue to encourage Network Rail to explore and exploit opportunities to maximise its commercial revenue. It is ultimately, however, for Network Rail to determine the best response, within the regulatory and incentives framework established for the company by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

Network Rail: Compensation

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the proportion of compensation paid by Network Rail to train operating companies that reaches rail passengers entitled to compensation under passenger charters or the Delay/Repay scheme; and if he will make a statement. [71761]

Norman Baker: Ministers have received representations on this issue from another Member. Compensation arrangements between Network Rail and Train Operating Companies are governed by the track access agreements between the parties. Compensation payments relate to the overall level of performance over a period, and depend on the extent to which delays during that period were caused by Network Rail or train operators. The regime for compensating passengers depends instead on whether delays on a particular service exceeded the relevant threshold, and does not depend on the cause of that delay. For this reason there is no direct correlation between the two sets of compensation payments.

Parking: Complaints

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has considered developing a non-statutory ombudsman-type complaint system for parking on private land. [69093]

Norman Baker: We fully support the establishment by the parking sector of an independent, sector-funded challenge body for parking on private land and are discussing a timetable for the establishment of such a body with the British Parking Association. We have made clear it that we will not commence the keeper liability provisions for vehicles on private land in the Protection of Freedoms Bill until an independent challenge body is in place.

Public Transport: Concessions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the legislation governing the provision of concessionary travel passes by local authorities. [72176]

Norman Baker: There are no proposals to amend the legislation governing the provision of concessionary travel passes. In the spending review last autumn the Government stated that they will protect the statutory entitlement for concessionary bus travel, ensuring that older people can maintain greater freedom and independence.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who applied for and received a concessionary travel pass but never used it in the latest period for which figures are available. [72178]

Norman Baker: The Department knows the proportion of eligible people who hold a concessionary pass—see the published National Travel Survey table NTS0619 at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/nts0619/

However we do not know the number of people who have never used their pass.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of altering concessionary fare legislation to diversify funding options available to local transport authorities. [72182]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has no proposals to alter legislation regarding funding for the statutory travel concession. From 1 April 2011, funding is provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to local transport authorities through Formula Grant. Local authorities retain the discretion to enhance their concessionary travel schemes, if they choose to do so, funded locally from their own resources.

Railways: Fares

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the environmental impact of the proposed increases in rail fares. [70153]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 334W.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on increases in rail fares. [71226]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: The Department for Transport regularly receives correspondence on rail fares including letters regarding the increase in regulated fares from January 2012.

Railways: Somerset

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to secure the future of the ticket offices at *(a)* Yeovil Pen Mill, *(b)* Crewkerne and *(c)* Yeovil Junction rail station; and if he will make a statement. [71260]

Mrs Villiers: It is for South West Trains and First Great Western to manage the operation of these ticket offices. There are existing industry processes in place which the operators must adhere to if they wish to alter current opening times.

Sir Roy McNulty's rail value for money study recommended that ticket office staffing levels be considered as a measure which would deliver savings. The Department is currently considering Sir Roy's report, but no decisions have been made.

Railways: Tickets

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what decisions his Department has made on the recommendations in the McNulty report on closure of 675 railway ticket offices. [71274]

Mrs Villiers: Sir Roy McNulty's rail value for money study recommended that ticket office staffing levels be considered as a measure which would deliver savings. The Department for Transport is currently considering Sir Roy's report, but no decisions have yet been made.

Railways: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* open full, *(b)* average and *(c)* lowest advance purchase fare available to the general public was for rail travel between York and London in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available, expressed in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [71506]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is set out as follows.

		£
Fare type	*2010*	*2011*
Advance single	10	10.45
Anytime return	223	239
Super off peak return	83.70	88.60
Off peak return Grand Central only	61	75

Typically over 75% of long distance rail journeys such as York to London are made using discounted tickets. Under 20% of these longer journeys are made using anytime return tickets. The super off peak return between York and London is a regulated fare. The full list and present prices of all these fares is available on the National Rail Enquiries website.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to make utilities more accountable for interruptions to traffic attributable to their streetworks. [72064]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 September 2011]*: The Department is committed to reducing the disruption caused by street works and is proposing to increase overrun charges which are levied by highway authorities when street works take too long.

In addition to this, a consultation is under way on regulations to enable the introduction of lane rental schemes (where utilities would have to pay each day they occupy the highway).

South East Airports Taskforce

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on the South East Airports Taskforce, what recent discussions he has had with BAA on its consultation plans with relevant local authorities, communities and other stakeholders throughout the process. [69221]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not had discussions with BAA on its consultation plans with relevant local authorities, communities and other stakeholders.

I have discussed BAA's plans for engagement with local communities and stakeholders with them as part of the work of the South East Airports Taskforce and related meetings.

I have asked the UK's independent aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to supervise the trial of operational freedoms at Heathrow and to report regularly on progress.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on the South East Airports Taskforce, (1) when he plans to define the trigger mechanisms for the deployment of operational freedoms at Heathrow Airport; [69222]

(2) when he plans to define the safeguards to apply in relation to the deployment of operational freedoms at Heathrow Airport; [69223]

(3) what definition of particular disruption his Department uses; [69224]

(4) what his policy is on a cap on the number of operational freedom days at Heathrow Airport. [69225]

Mrs Villiers: The trial of operational freedoms at Heathrow, which I announced on 14 July 2011, is currently being designed by the airport operator, BAA, under the supervision of the Civil Aviation Authority. BAA will engage with relevant local authorities, communities and stakeholders on the details of the trial once this process is complete.

The results of the trial will help define the circumstances in which the measures are deployed, including the requirement for safeguards and restrictions if the regime were to proceed beyond the trial stage to be adopted on a long term basis. The results will also form the basis for a consultation with local communities which will in due course inform the Government in deciding whether an operational freedoms regime should be adopted at the airport.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many carriages will be delivered by the Thameslink programme in each year of the programme. [69488]

Mrs Villiers: The Department is currently conducting commercial discussions with Siemens Plc and Cross London Trains, and the precise numbers of carriages and their rate of delivery will remain under negotiation as the contract moves towards financial close.

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 718W, on Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, on what dates he received information from officials in his Department on the status of the procurement for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [69197]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has been kept informed of the status of the Thameslink rolling stock procurement on an ongoing basis.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of correspondence between his Department and the Prime Minister's Office on the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract which took place in *(a)* May, *(b)* June and *(c)* July 2011. [71522]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* The Department has received a request under the Freedom of Information Act to release the same correspondence. Any documentation released in response to this request will be published on the Department for Transport website.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of legal advice sought and received by his Department in respect of the review of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Contract project during *(a)* May, *(b)* June and *(c)* July 2011. [71595]

Mrs Villiers: Communications between the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and his legal advisers are subject to legal advice privilege.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the note of each meeting between Ministers and officials of his Department and representatives of *(a)* Siemens and *(b)* Bombardier in respect of the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract in (i) May, (ii) June and (iii) July 2011; [71596]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* e-mail sent by and *(b)* document generated by officials in (i) his private office and (ii) the (A) rail and (B) legal sections of his Department which include the term Siemens and one or more of the words (1) TUPE, (2) TSSA, (3) RMT and (4) trade union; [71597]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* document and *(b)* e-mail held by his Department concerning the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract in which mention is made of comparisons between bids in relation to the impact of train weight on (i) track access charges and (ii) energy consumption and *(c)* the financial consequences for the project of the weight of the trains under consideration. [71598]

Mrs Villiers: Details of bids for the Thameslink rolling stock project are confidential to Siemens, Bombardier and the Department. To release this information could compromise their and the Department's commercial positions.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department plans to spend on rail procurement consultants in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2013; and how much his Department expects to spend on consultants for the (i) Thameslink Rolling Stock programme and (ii) Intercity Express Programme. [71165]

Mrs Villiers: During the 2011-12 financial year, the Department for Transport plans to spend around £630,500 on procurement consultants for rail projects.

During the 2011-12 financial year, planned spend on consultants on the Thameslink Rolling Stock project is £7.3 million and on the Intercity Express Programme is £4.5 million.

Detailed spending plans for 2012 and 2013 have not yet been agreed.

Tilbury Town Station

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work to commence at Tilbury Town station under the Access for All scheme. [72068]

Norman Baker: Network Rail currently plan to start on site at Tilbury Town during October this year with the work expected to last approximately seven months.

Transport Scotland

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when *(a)* he and *(b)* other representatives of his Department last met representatives of Transport Scotland. [68851]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has had a number of telephone conversations with Scottish Transport Ministers. The Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), met the Scottish Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, Stewart Stevenson MSP, on 4 November 2010 and met the Scottish Housing and Transport Minister Keith Brown MSP on 6 September. I met Stewart Stevenson MSP on 26 October 2010 in his office in Holyrood. I have had a number of telephone conversations with Scottish Transport Ministers.

Many DFT officials have regular contact with their counterparts in Transport Scotland and other branches of Scottish Government dealing with transport issues. Officials take every opportunity to ensure that relationships between the two Departments are developed and understanding shared.

Transport: City of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much local transport grant his Department has allocated to the City of York unitary council in each year since its creation; and what criteria are used to determine the grant allocated to each local authority. [71501]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has two funding streams that are provided to all local authorities in England (outside London) allocated by formula. These are integrated transport block and highways maintenance block, the funding is not ring-fenced. Funding allocated to the city of York for the financial years which the Department has retained accounting records are as follows:

£ million

	Integrated transport block	*Highways maintenance block*
2000-01	1.550	0.712
2001-02	4.900	1.095
2002-03	5.000	1.155
2003-04	6.600	1.281
2004-05	4.840	1.462
2005-06	4.900	1.325
2006-07	4.478	1.386
2007-08	4.141	1.419
2008-09	3.737	1.379
2009-10	3.374	1.482
2010-11[1]	2.240	1.605
2011-12	1.549	1.865
2012-13[2]	1.652	1.790

[1] Post savings exercise.

[2] The December 2010 settlement announced firm figures for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and indicative figures for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Prior to 2000 the funding was provided in the form of gross approved spending and funding allocated to the city of York for the financial years which the Department has retained accounting records are as follows:

Total pre Local Transport Plan Funding Integrated Transport Block

	£ million
1997-98	2.212
1998-99	1.127
1999-2000	1.983

The current formulae explanatory notes and raw data and allocations are on the Department's Local Transport Capital Block Funding webpage at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-transport-capital-block-funding/

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of a reduction in resources for Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional centres on the readiness of the UK to deal with outbreaks of animal disease. [71371]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) and its delivery partners retain their readiness to respond effectively to outbreaks of animal disease. Readiness and resilience is reviewed regularly and the impact of the current reduction in the AHVLA resources is considered to be very low. DEFRA's plans for responding to outbreaks of animal disease are contained in DEFRA's Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13581-animal-disease-plan-110701.pdf

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what financial support her Department will provide to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency for its regional centres in each of the next four financial years; [71378]

(2) how many Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional centres will be funded by her Department in each of the next four financial years. [71379]

Mr Paice: As the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is a net running cost agency, it is funded through service level agreements (SLAs) with the devolved Governments. The agency's financial support is acquired by delivering the services agreed in the SLAs. Support for the regional centres is not directly given by DEFRA, which only provides finances for services provided.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on testing for bovine tuberculosis of a reduction in resources for Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional centres. [71382]

Mr Paice: Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) staff carry out a small proportion of bovine TB testing in house each year. The majority of the testing programme is carried out by a pool of private veterinary practices authorised by AHVLA to carry out the testing. The TB testing programme is agreed with DEFRA and devolved Administrations each year and AHVLA do not foresee any change to the agreed programme of testing at present and have no current plans to reduce veterinary officer or lay testing resources in regional offices.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of compulsory redundancies in each Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional centre in each of the next four financial years. [71380]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) has only planned changes taking place in the next two financial years.

The proposed changes aim to reduce the numbers in its Laboratories and Regional Offices by 87 in 2011-12 and 52 in 2012-13. The number of compulsory redundancies will be significantly lower than 87 in 2011-12 and 52 in 2012-13 because the AHVLA expects a large proportion of employees to leave on voluntary release, as the terms for doing so are more favourable than leaving under eventual compulsory terms and the AHVLA will also seek to redeploy staff wherever possible. The 2012-13 figures are an estimate and have not been finalised.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much redundancies in Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional centres will cost in each of the next four financial years. [71381]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) has only planned changes taking place in the next two financial years.

The maximum estimated cost of the Laboratory and Regional Office releases in 2011-12 is £3,021,000. It is our intention that this figure will be reduced as staff are redeployed within the civil service.

The estimated cost of the Laboratory and Regional Office releases in 2012-13 is £1,656,000. This figure is an estimate and has not yet been finalised.

Animal Welfare

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the development of animal health legislation. [70229]

Mr Paice: We continue to have regular discussions on a number of welfare issues with our European colleagues. As an example both the sow stall ban and the conventional laying hen cage ban were discussed at my recent bilaterals in Sweden and Denmark at which Ministers affirmed the importance of adhering to standards set at EU level.

Biofuels: Grasslands

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the application of the EU Renewable Energy Directive to the production of biofuels crops on grasslands. [70641]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport plans to transpose the sustainability requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) from 15 December this year through amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel, Obligation (RTFO). The RED does not allow the use of biofuels from feedstocks to contribute towards targets or benefit from incentives unless a 35% greenhouse gas saving compared with fossil fuels is achieved, including emissions resulting from any conversion of grassland. The Department will consult shortly on detailed guidelines for suppliers on how to demonstrate that their fuels meet these requirements.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to comply with the Bern convention in implementing the badger cull. [71632]

Mr Paice: We have considered the provisions of the Bern convention and are confident that our proposed policy complies with the requirements. The proposed policy contains a number of safeguards to ensure that culling does not lead to a detrimental impact on local badger populations. These include having a 'closed season' over the badgers' breeding season during which no culling can take place, and limiting both the number of licences that may be granted in any one year and the number of badgers that may be removed in each licensed area. DEFRA will also commission independent monitoring that will assess annually badger activity in each licensed area. If badger activity is found to be very low, mitigation measures can be put in place to ensure there is no local disappearance in any licensed area (e.g. stopping activity under the licence for the remainder of that year, or stipulating areas of land where culling would not be permitted).

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to her oral statement of 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 811-24, on bovine tuberculosis, what mechanism she plans to use to derive culling targets. [71634]

Mr Paice: There is a range of data already available on badger populations from both national and local surveys. In addition to these sources of information, applicants for culling licences would be required to provide Natural England with information regarding the number of main setts on the land which forms part of the application. From these, Natural England will be able to advise applicants on the estimated range of the number of badgers they would be expected to remove during the six-week intensive cull.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what investigations her Department has undertaken into the use of cattle ear tags to evade bovine TB controls. [71454]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has not initiated any such investigations. However, we have supported some TB-related slaughterhouse surveys carried out by a small number of Trading Standards teams in 2010 and 2011. The surveys provided evidence that a small minority of farmers had been swapping official cattle ID ear tags so that they could retain TB reactors and send other less valuable cattle to slaughter in their place. It was because of these findings that we introduced in April 2011 an additional safeguard—DNA tags applied to TB test positive cattle—to ensure infected animals are not kept on farms.

Dairy Farming

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the financial viability of *(a)* intensive indoor dairy farms and *(b)* pasture-based dairy farming methods. [71911]

Mr Paice: No such assessment has been made. However we are currently considering how to best move forward research in the area of best practice for large scale dairying following a call for tenders in spring 2011 which resulted in none of the bids fully meeting the Department's thorough evidence requirements.

The Government believe that there is a place in UK agriculture for both sustainable intensification and more traditional production, so that the industry can meet varied consumer demands and be competitive on UK, EU and global markets.

We welcome innovative and entrepreneurial efforts by farmers to improve their global competitiveness, while protecting the environment and meeting animal welfare standards.

Dangerous Dogs

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to improve measures to tackle dangerous dogs. [72018]

Mr Paice: An announcement about the Government's approach to irresponsible dog ownership and dangerous dogs will be made shortly.

Dogs: Tagging

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on dog breeders microchipping all their animals; and if she will make a statement. [70785]

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy that microchipping of domestic dogs and cats be made compulsory. [72019]

Mr Paice: The Government recommends all owners and breeders microchip their dogs. Microchipping is one of a number of options currently being considered by DEFRA in relation to improving animal welfare and helping to tackle irresponsible dog ownership.

Equine Animals

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to ban the hot branding of equine animals. [72014]

Mr Paice: Hot branding, like freeze branding, of horses is exempt under the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 from the general prohibition on mutilations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

I understand that some people consider that hot branding should be prohibited. The reason for the exemption is that there are instances where ponies are left to remain in a semi-feral existence and do not react well to handling, such as on Dartmoor, in the New Forest and on Exmoor. In these circumstances it is better to be able to read the identification mark externally rather than to scan the animal which would involve handling it and causing distress. We realise that the pony would need to be handled when it is branded and at certain other occasions but these are kept to a minimum and when it is necessary.

Most horses are required to be microchipped for horse passport purposes and so there is less of a need to also hot brand them.

Farming

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Thirsk and Malton of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 371W, on farming, what steps she is taking to implement the recommendations of the Foresight Report in respect of ensuring more stable food prices. [71705]

Mr Paice: We are working to secure liberalisation of international trade which, as the Foresight project on the Future of Food and Farming states, will help dampen price volatility by allowing a production shock in one region to be more easily compensated for by output and trade adjustments in others.

As part of this work, in June 2011, the UK secured a number of significant results in the final text of the "Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture", which was agreed at the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting.

The plan represents the first steps towards a clear and positive response to the challenges highlighted in the Foresight report and, if implemented quickly, will go some way towards creating a more predictable world for food producers and consumers in both developed and developing countries.

The plan recognises that market fundamentals—supply and demand—are the key causes of price volatility in wheat, corn, maize and soya and that both increasing production sustainably and reducing shocks to supply such as those caused when policymakers respond to poor quality information, are the means to ensure a healthier relationship of supply to rising demand. During discussion of the plan, we emphasised the need to trade openly and remove distorting measures, and that export bans in particular should not impede calls for humanitarian aid.

We have established an Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to improve market information and transparency in order to encourage major players on the agri-food markets to share data, enhance existing information systems, promote greater shared understanding of food price developments, and to further policy dialogue and cooperation. The G20 countries committed to disclose reliable, quality, accurate and timely data for this initiative. The first meeting of AMIS will take place in Rome on 15 and 16 September.

We also agreed to establish a senior officials' group to act as a "Rapid Response Forum", to share views and plans for immediate actions in order to prevent or mitigate world food price crises. Taken together with the improvement in market information which we anticipate that AMIS will bring, this improved coordination should reduce the extent to which G20 members are themselves the source of avoidable supply shocks in future, as happens for example when panic buying takes place or export restrictions are imposed.

The plan will now be submitted to the G20 summit in November 2011.

Food

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effect of financial speculation in commodity derivative markets on food security; and if she will make a statement. [72006]

Mr Paice: Following the 2007-08 Agricultural Price Spike, the then Government conducted a review to analyse potential causes of price spikes, including the role of financial speculation. This review of the various potential mechanisms, whereby speculation may distort markets, found no evidence of speculation having a significant role in increasing the volatility of food prices. With factors including export restrictions, stock levels, global energy prices and damaged harvests, being the immediate causes of price spikes. The review also identifies the potential benefits of speculation to agricultural markets. The Government agree with the findings of the review.

Forests: Water

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will discuss with her counterparts in *(a)* South Africa and *(b)* Colombia the effects on levels of forestation and water security of proposed developments. [68193]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), will be discussing these issues inter alia with her international colleagues, including South Africa and Colombia, in the context of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which will be held in Rio from 4 to 6 June 2012. Furthermore, Lord Henley took part in the ministerial roundtable on Forest and Landscape Restoration, in Bonn, on 2 September and I participated in the 'Forests Indonesia' conference on 27 September.

Land: Registration

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much revenue her Department expects to raise from the proposed introduction of charges for the registration of land as a town or village green in each of the next four financial years. [71912]

Richard Benyon: None. In our "Consultation on the registration of new town or village greens", we propose that the fee imposed on an application to register a new green would be received by the local authority to which the application is made. The fee would typically represent only a small proportion of the costs of processing an application and our proposal includes an option to refund the fee to a successful applicant.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of applications made for the registration of land as a town or village green in each of the last four years by *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area. [71913]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold data for 2010 and 2011, nor complete year data for 2009. DEFRA expects to conduct a survey of commons registration authorities later this year, and will publish the results on the Department's website.

The following figures are based on a 43% response to a survey of authorities undertaken in 2009 which was used to estimate activity for England as a whole.

	Estimated number of applications
2007	143
2008	196
2009[1]	139

[1] Until September.

The following figures are attributable to the authorities responding to the survey: no figures are held for authorities not identified in the following table and no conclusions can be drawn from their omission. DEFRA does not hold data by parliamentary constituency.

Name of registration authority	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[1]*
Bexley council	0	1	0
Birmingham city council	2	2	2
Blackburn with Darwen borough council	0	0	0
Blackpool borough council	0	0	0
Bolton council	0	0	0
Bracknell Forest borough council	0	0	0
Bradford (City of) metropolitan district council	0	2	1
Brighton and Hove city council	0	0	1
Buckinghamshire county council	4	4	3
Cambridgeshire county council	2	3	2
Cheshire East borough council	0	0	2
Cheshire West and Chester council	1	1	1
Cornwall council	1	6	2
Cumbria county council	3	6	2
Derbyshire county council	4	9	3
Dorset county council	0	3	3
East Riding of Yorkshire council	1	0	0
East Sussex county council	4	4	0
Gateshead council	0	0	0
Gloucestershire county council	3	2	3
Halton borough council	1	0	0
Hampshire county council	7	7	3
Harrow council	0	1	1
Hartlepool borough council	0	2	0
Hertfordshire county council	3	3	3
Kent county council	5	7	8
Kirklees council	0	0	0
Lancashire county council	5	3	5

Name of registration authority	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Leicester city council	0	0	0
Leicestershire county council	2	1	0
Lincolnshire county council	4	1	2
Liverpool city council	2	2	1
London borough of Enfield	0	0	1
London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0
London borough of Newham	0	0	0
London borough of Sutton	0	0	0
London borough of Tower Hamlets	0	0	0
London borough of Waltham Forest	0	0	0
Norfolk county council	2	4	5
North East Lincolnshire borough council	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire council	1	0	0
North Somerset council	0	0	0
North Yorkshire county council	7	7	3
Northumberland county council	2	4	2
Nottinghamshire county council	1	2	1
Oldham metropolitan borough council	1	1	0
Plymouth city council	0	0	0
Portsmouth city council	0	0	1
Rochdale borough council	0	0	0
Royal borough of Kingston upon Thames	0	1	0
Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	1
Rutland county council	0	0	0
Salford city council	0	0	0
Sefton metropolitan borough council	0	0	1
Slough borough council	0	0	1
Somerset county council	2	3	4
South Gloucestershire council	2	0	0
South Tyneside metropolitan borough council	1	0	0
St Helens metropolitan borough council	0	0	0
Suffolk county council	3	5	5
Wakefield council	0	4	0
Walsall council	0	0	0
West Berkshire district council	1	0	1
West Sussex county council	0	2	0
Wiltshire council	1	1	1
York (City of) council	2	1	0
Total	80	105	75

[1] Until September.

Materials

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 August 2011, *Official Report*, column 1173W, on materials, what timetable she has set for the development of the action plan on resource security. [71715]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's business plan commits to publishing the Action Plan on Resource Security by the end of February 2012.

National Planning Policy Framework

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department worked on the draft of the national planning policy framework produced by the practitioners' advisory group. [71893]

Richard Benyon: I am not aware of any having done so.

Ouse Washes

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment her Department has made of the other habitat creation projects in the fens in consideration of the need for the Ouse Washes habitat creation scheme; [71947]

(2) whether her Department sought legal advice prior to reaching the conclusion that wet grassland habitat creation was required at the Ouse Washes; and if she will place a copy of any such advice in the Library; [71948]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the minimum size of development for the Ouse Washes habitat creation scheme to satisfy its obligations under the European Birds and Habitats Directive. [71949]

Richard Benyon: In the Project Appraisal Report for the Ouse Washes Habitat Creation project (OWHCP), it was recognised that the 1,008 hectare habitat requirement under the Birds and Habitats Directives would not necessarily be met by the OWHCP alone. It states that

> 'there is the potential for the sites to be expanded at a later date by other organisations and not part of this project'

(PAR section 2.7.4). Thus there is a role for third party habitat creation sites within the Fens in addition to the minimum to be delivered under the OWHCP. However, those currently planned or under way are not necessarily in the most appropriate location, of sufficient extent or habitat type suitable for the target bird species that are associated with habitat loss since the 1970s.

The Secretary of State considered the legal implications of the Habitats Directive in consultation with other members of the Ouse Washes Steering Group. The document "Key principles of the EC Wild Birds and Habitats Directives as they relate to the Ouse Washes" was circulated to that group in the course of consultation. It sets out the conclusion that alternative habitat needed to be provided; a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Ouse Washes Steering Group assessed the amount of compensatory habitat required under the Birds and Habitats Directives as 1,008 hectares in the appraisal document "Assessment of Avian Functional Loss Attributed to Changing Flood Patterns on the Ouse Washes"; a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. The Project Appraisal Report for the Ouse Washes Habitat Creation project included three options to deliver this full habitat extent, together with a fourth option of delivering a smaller total of 500 hectares. The Project Appraisal Report concluded the project 'minimum success criteria' should be 500 hectares of new habitat, which is the option now being delivered.

Slaughterhouses: CCTV

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will amend the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 to make CCTV mandatory in all slaughterhouses; and if she will make a statement. [72061]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 15 September 2011]:* We are looking into everything that we can do to clamp down on breaches of the law, including the possibility of making CCTV compulsory in slaughterhouses in future.

Sugar Beet

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the effects of ending EU production quotas in 2016 on *(a)* the price of sugar beet and *(b)* importation levels of sugar into the UK. [71513]

Mr Paice: The current EU beet production quota system is due to expire in 2015. We await formal publication in mid-October of European Commission proposals for reform of the CAP. We expect these proposals to cover sugar and to be accompanied by an impact assessment.

Wildlife: Circuses

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take in response to the Resolution of the House of 23 June 2011 on wild animals in circuses. [70894]

Mr Paice: The Government have listened to the view of the House and are sympathetic to the motion for a ban. We will continue to look carefully at how this could be introduced, but there are unavoidable legal difficulties that cannot be ignored.

The Government have received legal advice that if the Government were to introduce a ban now, it could be challenged in both British and European courts. While we are working towards overcoming these legal obstacles, Ministers will proceed with a very tough licensing regime which will stop circuses from using these wild animals if they do not provide very high welfare standards.

As it would ultimately be taxpayers who would foot the bill for defending a legal challenge, the Government have to verify the legal status of any policy before going ahead as well as listening to the views expressed in the House of Commons debate. Accordingly, work is under way to resolve the legal uncertainties which currently make it difficult to impose a ban as expressed in the Commons resolution.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2011, *Official Report,* column 1085W, on wildlife: circuses, what legal difficulties are present in relation to the implementation of a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses; and whether she plans to introduce a licensing scheme for the use of wild animals in circuses as an interim measure prior to implementing a ban. [71962]

Mr Paice: As I have previously said in the House, on the legal difficulties, we consider that a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses may well conflict with:

(i) article 16 of the European Services Directive 2006; and

(ii) article 1 protocol 1 of the European convention on human rights, which was given further effect by the Human Rights Act 1998 and sets out the conditions which must be met by a state which seeks to restrict or control the use a person may make of his own property.

We are continuing to explore ways of overcoming such legal obstacles. However, given that a ban is not an immediate possibility, work is under way to develop a licensing regime that will stop circuses from using wild animals unless they provide appropriate welfare standards.

HEALTH

Diabetes: Children

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children aged under 16 who were diagnosed with *(a)* type one and *(b)* type two diabetes in the Bexley Primary Care Trust area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [71970]

Paul Burstow: Data from the National Diabetes Audit show that 89 children under the age of 16 were diagnosed with type one diabetes and fewer than five children under the age of 16 were diagnosed with type two diabetes in the Bexley Primary Care Trust area during 2009-10.

However, participation in the National Diabetes Audit is not mandatory and we understand that not every general practitioner practice in the Bexley Primary Care Trust area participated.

Mental Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* efficacy and *(b)* cost of mindfulness-based therapies in treating (a) attention deficit disorder, (b) hyperactivity and (c) *other* mental health conditions; [72130]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* efficacy and *(b)* cost of the use of (i) anti-depressant drugs and (ii) mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy and mindfulness-based cognitive behaviour therapy; [72131]

(3) how many NHS patients received *(a)* counselling therapy, *(b)* drug therapy and *(c)* mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy in (i) 1990, (ii) 2000 and (iii) 2010; [72132]

(4) how much the Government spent on research into *(a)* anti-depressant drug treatment and *(b)* mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy in the latest period for which figures are available; [72133]

(5) how much the NHS spent on *(a)* anti-depressant drugs and *(b)* mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy in each year for which data are available; [72134]

(6) how many NHS staff were qualified to treat patients with mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy in each of the last three years; [72135]

(7) what research there has been on the efficacy of mindfulness-based therapies in the treatment of *(a)* stress, *(b)* depression and *(c)* other mental health conditions in the last five years; and which organisation conducted each such research project. [72136]

Paul Burstow: Mindfulness cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is not available within all Improving Access to Psychological Therapy services. However, East Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has invested in training and supervision of CBT practitioners in Mindfulness and South West SHA are planning to begin training and supervision later this year.

Information on numbers of patients who have received counselling therapy, drug therapy and mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy is not collected.

In 2010-11, the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) spent £3.2 million on directly-funded research relating to anti-depressant drug therapy, and £0.5 million on directly-funded research relating to mindfulness-based stress reduction and mindfulness-based cognitive therapy.

Research projects and research training awards directly funded by the NIHR in the last five years relating to mindfulness-based therapies are listed in the following table:

Title	*Start date*	*End date*	*Institution*
A qualitative synthesis of patient experiences of mindfulness-based interventions followed by a feasibility study of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and/or asthma and co-morbid symptoms of anxiety and/or depression	1 November 2009	31 October 2012	University of Bristol
Preventing depressive relapse in NHS practice through mindfulness-based cognitive therapy	1 January 2010	31 March 2014	University of Exeter
A qualitative (feasibility) study of mindfulness-based stress reduction for the treatment of fatigue, anxiety and depression in women with metastatic breast cancer	14 June 2010	13 December 2012	University of Southampton

Details of studies hosted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network, including some relating to mindfulness-based therapies can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Prior to the establishment of the NIHR in April 2006, the main part of the Department's total health research expenditure was devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. From April 2006 to March 2009, transitional research funding was allocated to these organisations at reducing levels. Records of individual NHS-supported research projects collected up to September 2007, including some relating to mindfulness-based therapies, are available on the archived national research register (NRR) at:

www.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

Information on how numbers of NHS staff qualified to treat patients with mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy is not available.

Information on NHS expenditure on anti depressant drugs is shown in the following table:

Estimated expenditure on anti-depressant drugs by the NHS in England, 2001-10

			£000
	Community[1, 2, 3]	*Hospital*[4, 5]	*Total*[6]
2001	341,661	16,451	358,112
2002	380,883	17,870	398,753
2003	395,178	18,519	413,697
2004	400,682	17,920	418,602
2005	338,547	14,454	353,001
2006	291,511	11,844	303,355
2007	276,108	10,285	286,393
2008	247,355	8,990	256,345
2009	230,063	7,813	237,876
2010	220,373	6,541	226,914

[1] Data are available for the cost for prescriptions dispensed in the community in England from 1991 (and see note 4).

[2] Figures represent the number of anti depressant prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England.

[3] Prescription data classify anti-depressant medication under British National Formulary section 4.3.

[4] Hospital data are available only from the NHS Information Centre from mid-2000.

[5] The hospital data are not a direct measure of cost and are likely to over-estimate the true cost. Hospital trusts may be able to access discounts not available in primary care and these discounts have not been included in the estimated figures.

[6] The medicine flupentixol is used for both depression and psychosis but is classified differently in prescription data and hospital data. Prescription data classify Fluanxol under depression and all other forms under anti-psychosis; hospital data classify all use under treatment of psychosis. In the table, any cases where the brand name Fluanxol appears are included but cases where only the chemical name has been used, and it is not possible to determine for which purpose the drug has been used, have been excluded.

Sources:

[1] Community—Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

[2] Hospital—Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index, national estimate from sample data.

Mental Health: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on the incidence of *(a)* self-harming, *(b)* eating disorders and *(c)* mental illness among (i) boys and (ii) girls in each of the last five years. [72027]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect this information but a number of reports have been published by other organisations.

For example, the "Mental Health of Children and Adolescents in Great Britain, 2004" (Office of National Statistics) reported that 9.6% of children aged five to 16 years had a clinically recognisable mental disorder. Of these: 5.8% had a conduct disorder; 3.7% had emotional disorders (anxiety and depression), 1.5% had hyperkinetic (hyperactive) disorders and 0.3% had eating disorders The same survey showed that among children aged five to 10 years 10.2% of boys and 5.1% of girls had a clinically recognisable mental disorder. In the older age group, 11 to 16-year-olds, 12.6% of boys and 10.3% of girls had a clinically recognisable mental disorder.

Information on the number of children that self harm is difficult to collect as often they do not tell others or seek medical assistance. "Children and adolescents who try to harm, hurt or kill themselves" (ONS, 2001) reported that around 1.3% of five to 10-year-olds had ever tried to harm, hurt or kill themselves. Higher proportions were found among boys than girls (1.7% and 0.9%) and 8 to 10-year-olds had twice the rate of five to seven-year-olds (1.7% and 0.9%). The lowest rate, 0.4% was found among five to seven-year-old girls rising to the highest rate of 2.1% of eight to 10-year-old boys. Other reports, including "Truth Hurts—Report of the National Inquiry into Self-Harm among Young People" (The Camelot Foundation and Mental Health Foundation, 2006) which indicated a prevalence rate of between one in 12 (8.3%) and one in 15 (6.7%) across the United Kingdom for young people, aged 15 to 25, report higher prevalence rates.

Mental Health: Older People

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on steps to reduce isolation, loneliness and fear amongst people in later life. [71865]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not issued any specific guidance to local authorities in relation to reducing isolation, loneliness and fear among older people. However, the Department is seeking to collect data around social participation through the 2011-12 Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework indicator, which focuses on enhancing the quality of life for people with care and support needs including older people.

In addition, the Department's national evaluation of Partnerships for Older People Projects informed councils about the benefits that small services such as providing practical help and emotional support could positively affect the health and well-being of older people.

Pancreatic Cancer

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve survival rates amongst those suffering from pancreatic cancer. [71866]

Paul Burstow: 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January, sets out a range of measures to improve cancer survival rates in England. It shows how we intend to tackle preventable cancer incidence, improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services and deliver outcomes that are comparable with the best in Europe. The strategy sets out an ambition to save at least an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy. To support earlier diagnosis of cancer the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years.

'Improving Outcomes in Upper Gastro-intestinal Cancers', published in 2001, makes recommendations on the treatment, management and care of patients with upper gastro-intestinal cancers including pancreatic cancer. The Cancer Outcomes Strategy makes it clear that the improving outcomes in cancer guidance (IOG), published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, will continue to be a feature of all commissioned cancer services.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care for earlier diagnosis. Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including a pancreatic cancer charity, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis and to discuss potential solutions. This will inform our future work in this area.

Patient Choice Schemes

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what extent GPs will be able to adopt and/or develop Choose and Book procedures following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [72140]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioners (GPs) can already fully adopt any and all Choose and Book procedures to support the way patient referrals are managed. All GPs in the national health service in England have free access to Choose and Book and around 30,000 referrals are processed through this system each day.

Choose and Book has the capability to support the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill and practising GPs and consultants work within the Choose and Book Programme team to ensure Choose and Book supports clinicians' needs and addresses any issues they may have over the adoption or development of the system.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 5 September 2011

TRANSPORT

A46: Lincoln

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for improvements to the A46 *(a)* within and *(b)* bordering Lincoln constituency. [64080]

[Official Report, 5 July 2011, Vol. 530, c. 1163W.]

Letter of correction from Mike Penning:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Lincoln (Karl McCartney) on 5 July 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mike Penning: Within the Lincoln constituency, the Highways Agency is responsible for the stretch of the A46 between the A1434 Hykeham Roundabout and the A57 Carholme Roundabout. Beyond Carholme Roundabout, the A46 is the responsibility of Lincolnshire county council.

The only improvement currently programmed on this section is adjacent to the A46 at Teal Park. The site between Whisby Roundabout and Hykeham Roundabout is being jointly developed by Lincoln city council and Lincolnshire county council. It will necessitate improvements to the A46 to accommodate the anticipated increase in traffic. The development is due for completion in July 2012.

To make precise the extent of the improvements to the road, the answer should have read:

Mike Penning: Within the Lincoln constituency, the Highways Agency is responsible for the stretch of the A46 between the A1434 Hykeham Roundabout and the A57 Carholme Roundabout. Beyond Carholme Roundabout, the A46 is the responsibility of Lincolnshire county council.

The only improvement currently programmed on this section is adjacent to the A46 at Teal Park. **The site, immediately east of the A46, south of the Whisby road junction, is being jointly developed by Lincoln city council and Lincolnshire county council. It will necessitate improvements to the A46 from a point north of the existing roundabout with Lincoln road and Doddington road, to a point south of the existing junction with Whisby road to accommodate the anticipated increase in traffic.** The development is due for completion in July 2012.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 8 September 2011

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service (Voluntary Severance)

6. **Mr Michael McCann** (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow) (Lab): What estimate he has made of the number of civil servants who will leave the civil service on voluntary severance terms in 2010-11. [69986]

[Official Report, 7 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 343.]

Letter of correction from Mr Francis Maude:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann) during Cabinet Office Question Time on 7 September 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): We aim to minimise compulsory redundancy. We reformed the civil service compensation scheme so that, for the first time, voluntary redundancy was more attractive than compulsory redundancy, which was impossibly expensive under the scheme left in place by the previous Government. We estimate that in early 2010-11 11,200 civil servants left the civil service on the new terms.

The correct answer should have been:

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): We aim to minimise compulsory redundancy. We reformed the civil service compensation scheme so that, for the first time, voluntary redundancy was more attractive than compulsory redundancy, which was impossibly expensive under the scheme left in place by the previous Government. We estimate that 11,200 civil servants left the civil service **early, in 2010-11.**

Ministerial Correction

Monday 12 September 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Sports Projects (Nottinghamshire)

1. **Mr Graham Allen** (Nottingham North) (Lab): What estimate he has made of the level of revenue and capital funding for sports projects in Nottinghamshire in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [70588]

[Official Report, 8 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 527.]

Letter of correction from Hugh Robertson:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen) during Culture, Media and Sport Question Time on 8 September 2011. Our athletics squad won seven medals, not 17 as stated.

The answer given was as follows:

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): Before answering, on behalf of the whole House may I congratulate the England and Wales cricket team on becoming the No. 1 test playing nation in the world? [Hon. Members: "Hear, hear."] That was a popular one. I also congratulate our rowing and athletics squads on winning 14 and 17 medals respectively at their world championships last weekend, and William Fox-Pitt on a record sixth victory at the Burghley horse trials.

The figures for the 2011-12 funding period are not yet available, but I am pleased to report that Nu2Sport, in conjunction with the university of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent university and Sport Nottinghamshire, secured a grant of just under £250,000 in national lottery funding from Sport England to help more students participate in sport. Nottingham will also benefit from funding invested throughout the country by the national governing bodies of sport. I will write to the hon. Gentleman once the full figures are available.

The correct answer should have been:

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): Before answering, on behalf of the whole House may I congratulate the England and Wales cricket team on becoming the No. 1 test playing nation in the world? [Hon. Members: "Hear, hear."] That was a popular one. I also congratulate our rowing and athletics squads on winning 14 and **seven** medals respectively at their world championships last weekend, and William Fox-Pitt on a record sixth victory at the Burghley horse trials.

The figures for the 2011-12 funding period are not yet available, but I am pleased to report that Nu2Sport, in conjunction with the university of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent university and Sport Nottinghamshire, secured a grant of just under £250,000 in national lottery funding from Sport England to help more students participate in sport. Nottingham will also benefit from funding invested throughout the country by the national governing bodies of sport. I will write to the hon. Gentleman once the full figures are available.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 13 September 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Travellers

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of unauthorised Traveller sites in *(a)* each local authority area and *(b)* England (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) since May 2010. [70552]

[Official Report, 8 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 752W.]

Letter of correction from Andrew Stunell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 8 September 2011. The error occurred in the figures given for January 2009, January 2010 and January 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Andrew Stunell: The "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" undertaken bi-annually by local authorities in England and collated by my Department collects data on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England. It does not provide data on the number of unauthorised sites. Information on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England and by local authority area for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 is available in the Library of the House.

Figures from the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" for the past five years indicate a downward trend on unauthorised caravans.

January	*Number*
2007	3,797
2008	3,680
2009	841
2010	896
2011	695

The correct answer should have been:

Andrew Stunell: The "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" undertaken bi-annually by local authorities in England and collated by my Department collects data on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England. It does not provide data on the number of unauthorised sites. Information on the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England and by local authority area for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 is available in the Library of the House.

Figures from the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans" for the past five years indicate a downward trend on unauthorised caravans.

January	*Number*
2007	3,797
2008	3,680
2009	**3,628**
2010	**3,619**
2011	**3,109**

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 14 September 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Topical Questions

The following is the answer given by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to a question from the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr Jackson) during Home Department Question Time on 12 September 2011.

T4. [70953] **Mr Stewart Jackson** (Peterborough) (Con): The Equality and Human Rights Commission posted qualified accounts in 2009-10 and the auditors found poor financial management, poor record keeping and poor leadership. What specific actions will the Minister take to rectify this problem and to ensure that taxpayers' money is not wasted by that organisation?

Mrs May: I thank my hon. Friend for drawing attention to the issue. The qualifications, of course, represent spend for periods under the previous Government and we have been absolutely clear with the EHRC from the start that any problems with its accounts under this Government are likely to result in financial consequences for it. In March, we set out our plans to change the EHRC. Our consultation closed in June and we will be responding shortly, but we have already announced that we will reduce its budget by more than half from £55 million in 2010-11 to £28.8 million in 2014-15.

[Official Report, 12 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 751-52.]

Letter of correction from Mrs Theresa May:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 12 September 2011. The correct answer should have been:

Mrs May: I thank my hon. Friend for drawing attention to the issue. The qualifications, of course, represent spend for periods under the previous Government and we have been absolutely clear with the EHRC from the start that any problems with its accounts under this Government are likely to result in financial consequences for it. In March, we set out our plans to change the EHRC. Our consultation closed in June and we will be responding shortly, but we have already announced that we will reduce its budget by more than half from £55 million in 2010-11 to **£26.8 million** in 2014-15.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 15 September 2011

EDUCATION

History: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many mainstream comprehensive schools entered *(a)* no pupils, *(b)* fewer than five per cent. of pupils, *(c)* fewer than 10 per cent. of pupils and *(d)* fewer than 25 per cent. of pupils for GCSE history examinations in 2010. [65835]

[Official Report, 20 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 1041W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Gibb:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Kingswood (Chris Skidmore) on 20 July 2011. While the total number of mainstream comprehensive schools identified was correct, the answers to the individual components were not. The answer was produced using a spreadsheet that contained a summary of results for each school. The spreadsheet contained results for some schools that were suppressed due to small numbers of entries; the suppressed schools were not included in the analysis in error. In revising this analysis we have taken into account the suppressed information to provide an accurate answer.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Gibb: 2,734 schools have been identified as being mainstream comprehensive.

(a) All of these schools entered pupils for GCSE history

(b) 17 had fewer than 5% of pupils entered for GCSE history

(c) 139 had fewer than 10% entered for GCSE history

(d) 1,031 schools had fewer than 25% of pupils entered for GCSE history in 2010.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Gibb: 2,734 schools have been identified as being mainstream comprehensive.

(a) **63** of these schools entered no pupils for GCSE history

(b) **88** had fewer than 5% of pupils entered for GCSE history

(c) **210** had fewer than 10% entered for GCSE history

(d) **1,102** schools had fewer than 25% of pupils entered for GCSE history in 2010.